Daily Report

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian, Israeli Negotiators Resume Talks

Delegates Discuss Police, Detainees

NC1702133694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Taba, 17 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli negotiators resumed their meetings in Taba this morning. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, and General Amnon Shahaq, Israel's deputy chief of staff, led the talks that are trying to find a formula for the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

MENA learned that the Security Committee was divided into two subcommittees. The first subcommittee is examining some details on the size of the Palestinian police force, the number of vehicles it will be using, and the nature of its tasks in Gaza and Jericho.

The other subcommittee is discussing the issue of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. Muhammad Dahlan, Palestinian security official in Gaza, and David Agmon, deputy security chief of the West Bank, head this subcommittee.

Dr. Sha'th last night met a delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] operating in Israel and the occupied territories and reviewed with them a list of the Palestinian detainees.

An ICRC official said that he handed Dr. Sha'th a list of the Palestinian detainees and discussed with him humanitarian issues concerning the detainees. The official declined to divulge the number of Palestinian detainees.

Meanwhile, the Civilian Affairs Committee met for one hour today to continue discussing issues pertaining to electricity, historical sites, civil registration, and other unresolved issues.

Lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi said after the meeting that the committee reviewed what has already been agreed upon, namely the transfer of the electricity authority, civil registration, postal services, and public works to the Palestinians. He explained that issuing a postage stamp for local and international use will be left for the two leaderships in Tunis and Jerusalem to agree on.

Al-Tarifi added that progress has been made and the talks were conducted in a very positive atmosphere. He said communications, land registry, water resources, and historical sites will be discussed at the next round of talks, for which preparations were made during today's meeting.

The Security Committee is expected to end its meeting this afternoon. It will reconvene in Taba next Monday.

'Draft Agreement' Reached on Police

NC1702140494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Taba, 17 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba self-rule negotiations, stated that the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators have reached a joint draft agreement on the Palestinian police force.

Speaking to reporters today, Sha'th remarked that certain points pertaining to the number of this force were not discussed, but were referred to the Palestinian and Israeli leadership to adopt a decision on them.

Sha'th described the talks as generally positive, adding that considerable progress has been made. We hoped we could reach a protocol on security issues and another on the transfer of authority, he said, adding that this will probably be achieved during the next round of talks next week.

Dr. Sha'th pointed out that the Civilian Affairs Committee had to conclude its work early today when chief Israeli delegate Gadi Zohar had to return to Israel, where he has some engagements. He affirmed, however, that the committee will finish its work next week.

He added that the Security Committee today discussed security arrangements in Gaza and Jericho, as well as on the roads; the settlements; and the joint patrols within the context of the Cairo agreement. He hoped all these matters will be settled in the next round.

Sha'th noted that the subcommittee in charge of the Palestinian detainees is continuing its work under the cochairmanship of Muhammad Dahlan and General David Agmon to draw up a timetable for the release of Palestinians being held in Israeli jails. [passage omitted]

MENA has learned that the Palestinian and Israeli sides agreed today to hold the next round of negotiations in Cairo, contrary to an earlier announcement that the talks would be held in Taba.

Israeli Sources: 'Tremendous' Progress

TA1702160894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Report from Taba by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[Excerpts] The Security Committee's talks will resume in Cairo on Monday [21 February]. The Taba negotiations have adjourned for the week, and Israeli delegation sources described the progress achieved this week as tremendous. We used to argue for a month and a half over one clause, and yet we concluded five clauses within the last three days, one of the delegates told us. Major General Amnon Shahaq recapped the discussions:

[Begin Shahaq recording] We have concluded the agreement segment dealing with security coordination and cooperation. We have reviewed every aspect of the

police issue, and later we will discuss several aspects of its size. We have started discussing security arrangements in Gaza and Jericho. The Civilian Affairs Committee has also concluded a series of issues, and it will pursue some of the issues next week. [end recording]

Shahaq and Sha'th have started discussing the format of the comprehensive arrangement. Unfinished issues include two substantive matters: the Palestinian council and the self-administration's jurisdiction. The Civilian Affairs Committee still has five points to conclude before the civilian chapter of the Taba negotiations can be closed. [passage omitted]

Members of the Israeli delegation said the talks were swift and favorable this week, although they were unprepared to commit themselves to a timetable. Gen. Shahaq said:

[Begin Shahaq recording] We aim for an agreement covering every issue, giving us guarantees. I hope it will happen quickly. We all want it to happen as soon as possible, but I would not....[pauses] If two more weeks are required, then we will take two more weeks. If a month is needed, we will take a month. And if we find we can finish it in less than two weeks, we will all be glad. [end recording]

Security Committee Members on Progress

NC1702182694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Taba, 17 Feb (MENA)—Security Committee member Hasan 'Asfur has stated that the Palestinian and Israeli sides to the Taba talks have postponed particular differences that continue to obstruct a security protocol. He expressed his hope of reaching a security protocol before 'Id al-Fitr to offer good news to the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories. In a statement after the Palestinian-Israeli Security Committee, he said that issues relating to the side roads in the Gaza Strip were discussed. The two sides also discussed operating joint patrols in the security belt of the settlements and on roads in the Gaza Strip. They agreed to call these patrols "Help Patrols" [Dawriyat Najdah].

'Asfur said: We have also reached an agreement on defining the security belt of the settlements and the security belt in the Palestinian areas in accordance with the Cairo agreement. He noted that particular points will be discussed next week. Regarding security in Jericho, he said this issue has not been broached. He stressed that this round was generally positive, noting that understanding was reached on numerous issues. He said the negotiations are proceeding positively. The Palestinian delegation has left Taba for Cairo, where the Security Committee is scheduled to meet for the next round.

Head of the Israeli delegation Amnon Shahaq said at the end of this round of talks that the negotiations proceeded positively, noting that this progress does not mean there are no problems. He pointed out that we have completed discussion of the part relating to security cooperation and coordination. He said the two sides have not yet settled the size of the Palestinian police force. He noted that both sides discussed security arrangements in Gaza and Jericho and the issue of Palestinian detainees but refused to give details. Shahaq said the Civilian Affairs Committee settled many issues relating to the transfer of power and will discuss the remaining issues next week.

The issues of antiquities, water, and city planning have been adjourned until next week along with the issue of communications, notably the Palestinian radio and television, which will be discussed at the next round.

Shahaq stressed that the next round of talks will be held in Cairo and the round after that in Taba, noting that it is difficult to say when these rounds will end. He noted that substantial issues on which no agreement has been reached are still under discussion. He said these issues relate to the authorities and powers of the two sides. He voiced his hope that an agreement will be reached to implement Palestinian self-rule.

Israel-Jordan Economic Talks End in Washington

TA1802055394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Two days of economic discussions between delegations from Israel, Jordan, and the United States ended last night in Washington. Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan has learned that the Jordanians are not prepared to engage in joint projects with Israel before progress is made in the negotiations between Israel and Syria and the outstanding problems between Israel and Jordan are solved. These problems are: the Palestinian refugees, use of the water sources, and areas in the 'Arava that Jordan claims to own. Our correspondent reports that Israeli and Jordanian experts discussed ways to prevent drug trafficking between the two countries.

In addition, another week of peace talks between Israeli representatives and delegations from Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinians ended in Washington. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said the talks between Israel and Jordan were the most successful.

On the Palestinian track, Major General Dani Rothschild and Sa'ib 'Urayqat began discussing the modalities of the elections to the autonomy council. They were joined by Ehud Shilat, the Interior Ministry's national supervisor of elections.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Algeria Asks al-Asad To Mediate With Iran

PM1702161094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Feb 94 p 2

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Zeroual Asks al-Asad To Mediate To End Tension Between Iran and Algeria"]

[Text] Damascus—Diplomatic sources in Damascus have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Algerian President Liamine Zeroual has asked Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to mediate with Iran to end the tension in Algerian-Iranian relations.

The sources said that this request came in a message which an Algerian envoy, namely presidential court director Mohamed Sa'idi, delivered to President al-Asad from President Zeroual last week.

The Syrian sources said that the message dealt with conditions in Algeria and bilateral relations, and offered condolences to President al-Asad on the loss of his son, Basil al-Asad.

The sources expects a summit to be held between President al-Asad and Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to discuss regional issues, relations between Iran and some Arab states, the peace process, and issues of common concern.

However, the sources did not say whether the meeting will be held in Damascus or Tehran.

Arab League Chief Calls For Water Conference

NC1702140594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has again called for convening an Arab conference on water immediately within the framework of the Arab League. The conference should include the countries directly concerned with this problem and other concerned countries that want to participate in it so as to define the future strategy of Arab water security within the framework of Pan-Arab security. In a lecture he delivered yesterday evening at the Egyptian University of International Law in Cairo, he said that international developments, major economic challenges, and giant cartels that have begun to form in the world require the Arab countries to take action quickly and to enhance their solidarity and cooperation to be able to deal with these challenges and blocs strongly and effectively.

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas To Pardon Collaborators Who Kill Israeli Contacts

NC1702154094 Paris AFP in English 1433 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb 17 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) offered Thursday [17 February] to pardon any Palestinian collaborator if he kills his Israeli contact or helps in the murder.

'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the armed wing of the hardline Muslim fundamentalist group, said in a statement that it would give "protection and weapons" for "any repentant who kills his employer in the Israeli (secret) services."

Hamas claimed a former collaborator worked with militants to ambush and kill a member of the Shin Bet internal intelligence service and wound two others on the West Bank on Sunday.

Last November the fundamentalists, who have taken up arms to drive out Jews, announced that Palestinians who collaborate with the Israelis had two months to repent.

After the deadline the almost daily murders of alleged collaborators resumed in the occupied territories.

'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam said on Tuesday that the fasting month of Ramadan now underway would be marked by the murder of Israelis to avenge fallen Palestinian militants.

Thirteen Palestinians have been killed for suspected collaboration with Israel since the start of this month alone, and Hamas has claimed responsibility for most of them.

According to the army, about 1,000 Palestinians—including many drug dealers, addicts, prostitutes and personal vendetta victims—have been killed by fellow Palestinians since the intifadah or uprising began in December 1987.

Meanwhile an Israeli stabbed by a Palestinian near the West Bank town of Hebron on December 29, died of his wounds on Thursday. Yuval Golan was the 201st Israeli to be killed by Palestinians during the intifadah.

Some 1,179 Palestinians have died from Israeli bullets over the same period, according to an AFP toll.

FRC Denies Reports of Abu-Nidal's Death

PM1702143994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Feb 94 pp1, 4

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Fatah-the Revolutionary Council [FRC], which is led by Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], yesterday denied what it described as "reports distributed by Algerian intelligence" claiming that its leader had died. It attacked the ruling authorities in Algeria and accused them of "being in the lap of the Jewish-Zionist-crusade movement."

The denial came in a statement signed by Husayn Bin-'Ali, a spokesman for Abu-Nidal's group, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH, days after that group was accused of assassinating a Jordanian diplomat in Beirut. The statement did not indicate the whereabouts of Anu-Nidal, whose group has also been accused of carrying out terrorist operations in Western and Arab countries.

The group said that it was optimistic when Major General Liamine Zeroual assumed the presidency in Algeria, "but we were surprised" when the media subservient to the Algerian regime continued "to escalate their false allegations." It added that Algerian intelligence, which is headed by General Tawfiq, "distributed

a number of reports targeting our movement to 11 Arab countries." It pointed out that the wording of the reports differed from one country to another, saying in part that "Abu-Nidal has died and a group of people linked to the authorities of a certain Arab country occupied the movement's headquarters," and that "the movement, in cooperation with some terrorist Islamic fundamentalist forces, intended to implement a certain plan" in some Arab states, including Egypt and Jordan.

The group sees "these fabrications as being Jewish-Zionist fabrications," and said that it has "accurate knowledge" of the circumstances of the emergence of the Algerian intelligence and security organs "which grew up in the laps of the Jewish-Zionist-crusade movement."

It further said that "these lies and fabrications are part of the large-scale campaign aimed at Judaizing the nation, containing its masses, and weaking the resolve of the nation's masses and of a number of Arab countries." In conclusion, it "rejected civil wars and fragmentation of the nation."

Fatah Officials Comment on Situation in Gaza

Al-Agha on 'Hot Security Situation'

PM1802122394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Feb 94 p 6

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Zakariyya al-Agha by Rashid Khashanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Khashanah] How can we describe Fatah's position in the Gaza Strip, and what is the status of its relations with the other forces rejecting the Declaration of Principles agreement?

[Al-Agha] The position is good, although there are some minor problems. And our relations as a movement with the other forces are good. And we are doing our utmost to secure a minimum of coordination. And dialogues are continuing among us with a view to easing any tension that may emerge, especially in field positions.

I can say that relations with the national forces inside the Strip are satisfactory so far. But the main problem is the hot security situation. The reason is the spread of weapons inside the strip with the encouragement of the Israeli authorities and under their eyes. This situation in turn creates numerous security problems and excesses against citizens.

[Khashanah] How can this situation be brought under control?

[Al-Agha] We are trying together with the other national forces to bring the security problem under control and to confront all the excesses taking place. However, the comprehensive solution to this situation will take place after the establishment of a Palestinian national authority that can bring an end to these regrettable aspects and guarantee the Palestinian citizens' security and safety.

[Khashanah] Social and economic conditions in the Gaza Strip are worse than in the West Bank. What is the effect of that on the political situation?

[Al-Agha] There are problems resulting from the bad economic situation, especially the spread of unemployment in the strip. Many Palestinian establishments are suffering severe financial straits, and their workers have not received their wages for several months. In addition, families of the martyrs and detainees have not received the allowances decided for them. This situation is attributable to the scarcity of the PLO's financial resources and the systematic Israeli economic policy against Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories.

Furthermore, the delay in implementing the Declaration of Principles agreement between the PLO and Israel in addition to the obstacles created by the Israeli side during the negotiations to obstruct progress are all factors which have created a state of frustration and impatience among citizens—which has led to psychological worry and tension and maybe some regrettable actions from time to time.

[Khashanah] What are the potential effects of the agreement's implementation on the situation in the strip in the light of the meeting with President 'Arafat?

[Al-Agha] We discussed political and organizational matters whose positive results I hope will emerge in the stage ahead. And I hope that the national authority will begin to play its role inside the occupied territories so that a new era in the Palestinian people's history will begin—an era when the occupation will disappear.

Al-Zuray'i Notes Gazans' 'Frustration'

PM1802104094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Feb 94 p6

[Interview with Salim al-Zuray'i, "a senior Fatah official in the Gaza Strip," by Rashid Khashanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Khashanah] What did you discuss with the Fatah leadership and President 'Arafat in recent days?

[Al-Zuray'i] We discussed matters pertaining purely to the movement and we also discussed the security situation, the people's suffering in the strip, and the economic blockade against our people. I believe that the hot security situation in Gaza is a result of the bad economic situation but Israel also is not unconnected with the disturbances and sedition. It helps foment internal conflict in the occupied territory by flooding the Strip with arms via "collaborators," but Palestine cannot be turned into another Afghanistan or Somalia because there is

profound national awareness and the state of the political movement is good despite the fact that the people are in dire need of essential goods and normal living conditions.

[Khashanah] How do you explain the growing phenomenon of liquidation of "collaborators" with the occupation?

[Al-Zuray'i] This is a new phenomenon and it is exaggerated. I believe that under no circumstances should a gunman become magistrate, judge, and executioner. The collaborators can be classified into categories. There are those who are beyond reform and have crossed the point of no return, and there are those who got involved inadvertently or were wronged. Some of the latter could be returned to the national ranks or neutralized.

At any rate, the situation in the Gaza Strip is difficult, like the other occupied areas. The cause of the difficulty is the Palestinian masses' frustration resulting from the Israeli procrastination on the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

[Khashanah] What is your estimate of the number of the Gaza Strip detainees?

[Al-Zuray'i] The general estimate is over 10,000 detainees including 6,000 detainees from Gaza. That affects the people of the Strip. In our meeting with the Palestinian leadership in Tunis we concentrated on the need for a clear timetable and deadline for the release of the Palestinian revolution's detainees regardless of their organizations and affiliations because the PLO embraces all sectors of the Palestinian people. Without fulfillment of that objective there can be no meaningful agreement.

[Khashanah] What was the leadership's answer?

[Al-Zuray'i] There was official response and agreement with that view because the agreement would be worthless without the release of the detainees and prisoners. In fact that would be the only step that would ameliorate the agreement or make it less ugly.

[Khashanah] What kind of relations exist between Fatah and the other factions which reject the agreement, in the Gaza Strip?

[Al-Zuray'i] We and many cadres and leaderships of these factions in the Strip have the long struggle in common and we have had dialogues with them in prison and outside. We always maintained that the homeland is above all organizations. There is cooperation now in all fields, apart from the differences of opinion. There is field coordination at a level higher than the level of coordination outside the occupied territory. It is enhanced by the sense of responsibility demonstrated by all factions.

[Khashanah] How would friction and conflict be avoided when Fatah becomes a ruling party and assumes power?

[Al-Zuray'i] We have discussed these matters as Palestinian citizens with the parties concerned, especially the Islamic parties, at an early stage. There can be no doubt that many brother leaders and members of the factions at home have a clear vision. Now the common vision leans toward finding a clear national program that would answer all questions in the next phase. But so far there is no national program for the prospective Palestinian authority. We hope that, through joint meetings and seminars, we will be able to formulate an initial concept of a national program that would confirm the principles of democracy, independence of the judiciary, freedom of the press, human rights, and the rule of law. These are the principles on which there is Palestinian consensus. The situation at home will not stabilize without the fulfillment of these objectives as the main foundations of national authority.

[Khashanah] Did you discuss the Palestinian draft constitution in the strip?

[Al-Zuray'i] There is no crystallized final draft yet. The dialogue on it is continuing. All the Palestinian people should be consulted on it.

[Khashanah] Did you and the leadership make any practical decisions regarding the state of the movement in the Strip?

[Al-Zuray'i] Decisions were made on most of the issues we came to discuss with the leadership. We are waiting for the implementation of the recent Cairo agreement and we hope that will be done before the end of the month, as President 'Arafat told us.

[Khashanah] What matters relating to the Strip were discussed?

[Al-Zuray'i] Organizational matters, the security situation, and the people's suffering.

[Khashanah] Do you believe that the phenomenon of liquidating the collaborators is likely to continue?

[Al-Zuray'i] Negative aspects have appeared between members of the Palestinian people since 1936, between families and between tribes, resulting in many casualties. That is why we have fought that phenomenon and still do, strongly, and we hope that we will turn over that leaf quickly to protect the lives of these people. I believe that Palestinian justice will be fair to everyone and will bring to account everyone who collaborated with the occupation. That is why we say let us leave this matter to the Palestinian authority and national justice, for it to task those who did wrong and be fair to those who were wronged.

We found the other factions responsive to that view. Those who carry out the liquidation operations do not take orders. They are youngsters under the age of 18. Their actions are usually based on personal views.

Fatah Committee Accuses Baraq of Blocking Progress

PM1702160494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Feb 94 p6

[Report by Rashid Khashanah: "Fatah Central Committee: Baraq Blocks Way to Progress in Taba Negotiations"]

[Text] Tunis—President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday received the ambassadors of the Arab and foreign states accredited to the PLO in Tunis. The Palestinian news agency WAFA said the meeting dealt with the latest political developments, the current Palestinian-Israeli negotiations which have so far led to the signing of the Cairo agreement, the obstacles still preventing progress, and implementation of the Declaration of Principles and the need to honor the dates stated therein.

It added that the meeting "also covered the economic situation in the occupied Palestinian territory and the aid needed for its reconstruction and development."

Meanwhile, Fatah's Central Committee yesterday attacked Israeli Chief of Staff General Ehud Baraq and the other generals of the military establishment, maintaining that "they found that the opportunity was right for them to pounce on the political process on security grounds."

The movement's central internal bulletin, which appears biweekly under the name of Fatah, said yesterday that Baraq and the military "were surprised by the Oslo agreement, which was signed without their knowledge and without consultation with them." The bulletin, which expresses the views of Fatah's Central Committee members, said that "Baraq spread his staff into the negotiation process in such a way as to block any possibility of progress in Taba. He succeeded in blocking even the deadline set for the signing of an agreement on withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area."

It also attacked Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for responding to the generals' position. It said that "the timetable stipulated in the Declaration of Principles agreement is no longer sacrosanct to Rabin. Army complications are beginning to go some way in influencing the concept of withdrawal from Gaza."

It stressed that in the view of the chief of staff and the military establishment, the agreement does not mean withdrawal from Gaza but rather a redeployment within the strip "to defend the borders against foreign threats and guarantee security of the settlements." It added that he instructed his followers in the Israeli negotiating delegation to impose that concept of withdrawal.

It also attacked the Israeli military establishment for refusing to recognize the PLO as the Palestinian people's representative "even though the majority of Israeli politicians, foremost among them Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, understood the significance of recognizing the PLO and Peres instructed his ambassadors and his UN representative to hold contacts with the ambassadors of the state of Palestine and with the PLO office directors and its observer at the United Nations, reflecting that understanding."

Al-Husayni Interviewed on Taba Negotiations

TA1702193294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, Palestinian activist, by Yoni Ben-Menahem in Jerusalem on 17 February—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] How do you assess the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] [words indistinct] ready to hear even about that.

[Ben-Menahem] But there has been progress today in the Taba talks.

[Al-Husayni] Yes, progress has been achieved in the Taba talks and I believe that it is possible to reach agreement by the end of this month, but all this is conditional on the Palestinian people's perception that something is happening on the ground. Otherwise, even if, ultimately, after further delay a good agreement is reached, a stage will come where the people will no longer be prepared to hear what we are saying. Consequently, it will be difficult to implement any agreement that is reached.

[Ben-Menahem] What do you expect now from the Israelis?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that the Israelis should begin releasing prisoners, should clearly state that no prisoner will remain in Israeli jails, should change the firing orders in the streets, and should stop demolishing homes under different pretexts. It is unnecessary now for certain parties to embark on demolishing homes becuase their owners had obtained or did not obtain a license. Some issues pertaining to land must be frozen until the end of the negotiating process. The continuation of all these acts, the continued construction of new buildings in settlements, the expansion in Ma'ale Adumim, all these things actually lead to a single outcome, namely, that the Palestinian street will become more convinced that Israel is not serious in the peace process.

Radio, TV Director on Regional Peace, Ties

NC1802104894 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Telephone interview with Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, chairman of the Palestinian Radio and Television Corporation and a member of the Palestinian negotiating team to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Miliji] Welcome to our program.

[Abu-'Ayyash] Thank you.

[Al-Miliji] Palestinian President 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres signed an agreement in Cairo, which was followed by talks in Taba. Do you feel the Palestinian issue is on its way to a final settlement?

[Abu-'Ayyash] As brother President 'Arafat said, the name of Palestine has been placed firmly on the map. What our negotiating teams are doing in Taba, Washington, and elsewhere is to confirm this political right. In my opinion, the Palestinian issue is on its way to a solution. This is true, despite the numerous difficulties and the obstacles still facing the two sides and holding back a final settlement.

[Al-Miliji] The entire world, East and West, has long provided the Middle East with weapons. Now the Middle East region is looking forward to peace. What do the Palestinians expect from the world in time of peace?

[Abu-'Ayyash] I believe the road toward creating a Middle East region that enjoys prosperity, peace, and security will be full of challenges. One such challenge has to do with the weapons to which you have just referred. The world must provide the various countries in the region, particularly the Palestinian people, with expertise and massive economic support. This aid is needed if the Palestinians are to rebuild their infrastructure and cope with the fast-paced economic changes in the world.

Peace is more than signing a paper or agreement. It is the translation of these agreements into tangible facts and into measures enabling the regions' nations to live in peace and security. Peace involves security, justice, and rights for everyone.

[Al-Miliji] As the moment of Palestinian self-determination in the transitional phase draws near, how do you see future Jordanian-Palestinian relations?

[Abu-'Ayyash] My dear friend, the relationship between the brothers in Jordan and the brother Palestinians is long and special. Due to the Palestinian tragedy, the Palestinians blended with the Jordanians to form one family. I think future Palestinian-Jordanian relations will be special. The Palestinians also have warm relations with other Arabs, particularly the Egyptians, and their relationship with Syria and Lebanon is one of cooperation.

But specific and clear political programs must be formulated. I think the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples should be left free to determine the shape of their relations once the Palestinian people are free from the yoke of Israeli occupation and have restored their rights, which, I believe, is just a matter of time.

[Al-Miliji] In the latest meetings of the Palestinian-Jordanian Committee, did the two sides discuss the future relationship between the Jordanians and Palestinians once the Palestinians get their right to self-determination?

[Abu-'Ayyash] Yes they did. There are several committees that meet occasionally, such as the Jordanian-Palestinian Higher Coordination Committee, which will draft things like economic ties, the refugees issue, the crossing points, and other issues relating to the daily life of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. I believe that all these relations and drafts worked out by the PLO institutions and the Jordanian Government will necessarily put things in focus for the Palestinian people once the final status of their political future, in the form of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil, is determined.

[Al-Miliji] This leads us to another topic, namely, relations with sisterly Egypt. Palestinian police cadres recently received training at the Egyptian Police Academy. As chairman of the Palestinian Radio and Television Corporation, what are the avenues for prospective cooperation between you and the Egyptian Radio and Television Union [RTU]?

[Abu-'Ayyash] It has been my honor to meet with the brothers in Egyptian radio and television and with some production circles. I was particularly pleased that Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif gave us all the necessary facilities to train the Palestinian cadres, such as the police cadres. Approximately 60 Palestinian media cadres from the occupied territories and from the diaspora are due in Egypt on 23 March to receive a six-week training course along with their Egyptian colleagues at the Egyptian RTU. Once this course is over, we may say we have cadres who are well versed in the established Egyptian school of media, which could benefit us. Our relations with the brothers in Egypt are very close, fraternal, and long, not just in the form of agreements, but also in practice, going back even before 1948.

[Al-Miliji] Abu-'Ayyash: Thank you very much.

[Abu-'Ayyash] Thank you.

Egypt

Authorities Reportedly Arrest 942 Suspected 'Militants'

NC1702173794 Paris AFP in English 1708 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, Feb 17 (AFP)—Egyptian security forces rounded up more than 900 suspected Islamic militants in a countrywide sweep this week, the government daily AL-JUMHURIYAH reported Thursday.

The 942 people arrested included 38 known militants.

The raids, part of a campaign against Islamic fundamentalists battling the government, also netted 270 kilograms (595 pounds) of explosives and 920 weapons, the daily said.

Paper Lauds Cairo's New Antiterrorist Policy

NC1802103894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0701 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM asserts that the security forces' recent preemptive strikes against the terrorist groups are an indication of a new, successful security policy that aims to keep the initiative in the hands of the police and deny the terrorists the chance of lying low until it is time to perpetrate a new crime.

In its editorial today, the paper says that the new security policy is based on the availability of accurate and specific data about the terrorist organizations, their operational methods, hideouts, and modes of communication with each other in Egypt and with their financiers and instigators abroad.

The paper adds: The facts prove beyond a shadow of doubt that these unbalanced young men, devoid of any true religious faith, have consciously or unconsciously become agents of foreign anti-Egypt schemes to undermine the country's successful economic reform program.

The paper concludes: Now that the picture is perfectly clear and the identities of the murderers known, there is no alternative to an all-out confrontation using the law's sharp scalpel to excise this malignant tumor from the homeland's body.

Soldiers Sentenced to Death for Plot To Kill Mubarak

NC1802112494 Paris AFP in English 1027 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, Feb 18 (AFP)—Three soldiers linked to Islamic militants have been condemned to death and three others jailed for 10 years for plotting to assassinate Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, court sources disclosed Friday.

The military court of Sidi Barrani, near the Libyan border, passed the death sentence against a second lieutenant in the reserves, Midhat Tahawi, and two conscripts, Hamadah Muhammad Lutfi and Muhammad Ahmad Sa'id Salih, on Wednesday.

One of the conscripts was among the seven Islamic militants killed in a police raid on the Cairo district of al-Zawiyah al- Hamra' in early February, according to an informed source. The other two appeared in court.

Another second lieutenant, Fathi Mahmud Khattab, and two more conscripts were each sentenced to 10 years of hard labour.

The court said the six soldiers had planted explosives at Sidi Barrani airport and planned to detonate the bomb during a visit by Mubarak, who often meets his Libyan counterpart Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi in the border town.

The trial opened on January 30 behind closed doors.

The latest verdicts raised to 43 the number of Islamic militants sent to death row since October 1992. Twenty-nine people have been executed over the last nine months.

Libya

Lockerbie Suspects: West Is 'Settling Scores'

PM1702150294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Feb 94 p 4

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy: "Fahimah al-Miqrahi Tells AL-HAYAH: Lockerbie Is a Settling of Scores"]

[Text] Tripoli—Al-Amin Khalifah Fahimah and 'Abd-al-Basit al-Miqrahi, the two Libyans suspected of involvement in blowing up the PanAm plane over Scotland five years ago, have said that they are tired of waiting to stand trial for a "crime we did not commit and knew nothing about" until after they were accused of it.

In an interview in Tripoli, Fahimah and al-Miqrahi told AL-HAYAH that they are tired of the restrictions imposed on their movement. They stressed their wish to live a normal life, "instead of being stared at wherever we go and instead of our news dominating all world news bulletins."

Al-Miqrahi said: "Our only crime is that we hold Libyan nationality.... We are victims of the West's desire to politicize the case and try Libya for a crime it did not commit in the context of settling scores in other issues."

It appeared from the interview that al-Amin Fahimah and al-Miqrahi were in a bad mental state, but they tried to look composed. Al-Miqrahi pointed out that he was not in Malta during the period in which the accusation was leveled at Libya, and that he never met the owner of the timing device (timer) factory.

Al-Miqrahi added that he and al-Amin Fahimah placed their full confidence in lawyer Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl the moment he was assigned to defend them, and that they support any decision he takes. He pointed out that they were not subjected to any pressures to hand themselves over, that the decision is theirs, and that they are willing to appear before "any court that enjoys the elements of fairness, not one that convicts people before the trial begins."

He said that "the accusations have affected all my relatives, especially my children, who used to convey to me questions from their colleagues about this incident. I had to move them to another school...and change their family name to their mother's in order to alleviate their suffering."

Having stressed that he does not fear for himself, he said that he now wants "the days to pass quickly so that I can get the innocent verdict." He stressed that "I will never sell myself to any quarter in the world, whatever the reward." And "I have never been an officer in the Libyan intelligence service."

He added that "I am willing to hand myself over if the case is going to end at that point and if the sanctions imposed on Libya are going to be lifted." He added: "However, from my protracted discussions with the lawyer, they (the Western states) do not want to bring an end to this case, because its continuation is likely to lead to the continuation of the sanctions imposed on Libya."

He said that the Libyan testifying against them, namely 'Abd-al-Hamid Ja'akah, "maybe acted under pressure or for other unavoidable motives." He stressed that "the statements attributed to Ja'akah are absolutely baseless and completely fabricated." He declined to talk about Ja'akah's mental state or go into the details of his personal life.

As for al-Amin Fahimah, he expressed his belief that 'Abd-al-Hamid Ja'akah "will withdraw his lies the moment he sees me..., because I helped him a lot in several issues. And I believe that the case will end the moment Ja'akah admits the truth."

The two suspects' lawyer, Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl, who attended the interview, believes that "the great suffering" al-Amin Khalifah and al-Miqrahi are experiencing is capable of "driving those afflicted by it toward madness or introversion."

General People's Congress Approves New Shari'ah Laws

LD1702221294 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] To be rightly guided by the Holy Koran as the law of the new Jamahiri society, the General People's Congress has [in its January session in Surt] formulated seven laws that the Basic People's Congresses decided in regard to the application of Islamic law [shari'ah]:

1. The law on purification [al-tatthir]
2. The law on retribution and blood money.
3. The law on rules of the will.
4. The law on prohibition of alcohol.
5. The law amending the law on the punishment of theft and [word indistinct]
6. The law on protecting society from things prohibited by the Holy Koran.
7. The law amending provisions of the law of marriage and divorce and their consequences.

Radio Criticizes Arab Maghreb Union Inaction

LD1702225694 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Today is the fifth anniversary of the declaration of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] between the Great Jamahiriyah, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania. On this day five years ago the treaty creating the AMU was signed at the Marrakesh summit in fraternal Morocco as a step on the road to achieving the all-embracing Arab unity.

The brother leader of the revolution emphasized at the final session of the Marrakesh summit the need to set up the AMU for the benefit of the toilers, the poor and the deprived who have suffered decades of oppression and colonialism, and to let the overwhelming majority [of the peoples of the Maghreb] have their share in the new unified Arab Maghreb. He also stressed that this Union should be a support for the struggle of the Arab Palestinian people for the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea.

However, five years after its creation the treaty of this Union has remained mere ink on paper and its march has not achieved more than zero because it did not render any service to the Arab people in this region. Suffice to note that this union was incapable of holding a summit meeting and was unable to lift an unfair embargo imposed on a member state.

Morocco

Rabat Submits Counterproposals to European Commission

LD1602140094 Rabat MAP in English 1211 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Brussels, Feb. 16 (MAP)—The Moroccan counter-proposals for a new partnership with Europe submitted Monday to the European Commission here focus on commercial and financial aspects.

A source close to the Moroccan delegation currently visiting Brussels told MAP bureau here that the Moroccan delegation had from the start pointed out that the negotiations directives adopted by the European Ministers' Council last December 6 were insufficient in commercial and financial matters.

The Moroccan side renewed commitment for more open trade relations with the European Union and called for a necessary and vital balance between the agricultural and industrial sectors. The open relations, the delegation argued, would be started progressively and framed by support measures.

The delegation underlined that pending the setting forth of the new trade relations, and in view of the new data stemming from the Uruguay Round it is necessary to adapt the current cooperation accord in order to maintain the preferences granted so far to Morocco and especially to maintain the flow of Morocco's exports of fruits and vegetables.

The European Union confirmed in this respect its readiness to preserve Moroccan trade gains especially regarding fruits and vegetables, the same source said.

Regarding the financial sector, the Moroccan side pointed out that the development of financial cooperation should be adapted to Morocco's socio-economic conditions, the financial constraints entailed by the adjustment policy and its will to promote privileged relations and more intense exchanges with the European Union.

Morocco deems its counter-proposals accurate, comprehensive and realistic given the cooperation possibilities with the European Union and the complementarity between their economies.

The delegation that handed to the European officials the memorandum of counter-proposals was led by Moroccan Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Taieb Fassi Fihri [title and spelling as received].

Sudan

Al-Bashir Receives Iraqi Transport Minister

JN1702215494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir has asserted that through their steadfastness, sacrifices, and endurance that is coupled with construction, the Iraqi people under President Saddam Husayn have proven that they are rightfully a faithful people who adhere to the Arab nation's objectives. This is a new victory which the Iraqis have achieved for their nation and for Iraq, and also a retreat and defeat for the enemies of both the Iraqis and the nation.

Receiving Iraqi Transport and Communications Minister Ahmad Murtada in Khartoum today, the Sudanese president added that the countries which launched the treacherous 30-state aggression on Iraq are today suffering from disturbances, internal crises, and an unstable situation when Iraq is continuously proceeding forward and restoring all that was destroyed in the aggression to a better condition with a new militant spirit in all walks of life despite the unfair blockade.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir asked the Iraqi transport and communications minister to convey his greetings to President leader Saddam Husayn and the proud Iraqi people. He expressed his high appreciation of Iraq's support for Sudan in the technical, consultative, and engineering fields. Sudanese Transport and Communications Minister 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir and the Iraqi ambassador in Khartoum attended the meeting.

Foreign Minister Says Opposition Seeks Sanctions

EA1802112394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has expressed regret that the Sudanese opposition is seeking protection from foreign forces to achieve its goals. He said the foremost concern of the so-called opposition is now an attempt to impose sanctions against Sudan. He added that the meeting in the British House of Commons in which the scattered remnants of the opposition are participating is not of concern. He said the opposition's talk of a war of extermination taking place in the south is completely devoid of truth and that Sudan denies the prejudiced allegations against it. He said what is going in the south at present is fighting between the various factions of the rebellion and that the Sudanese Army is doing its duty to spread security and to preserve the unity of Sudan.

Assembly, Minister Condemn UN Rights Report

EA1702215694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] The Transitional National Assembly has condemned the report on Sudan presented by the rapporteur of the UN Human Rights (?Committee), Gaspar Biro, which described Islamic law and punishment as contradictory to UN charters and incompatible with human rights. The assembly asked the UN secretary general to (?withdraw) the report immediately because it brought into disrepute the faith of the Islamic nation. It was a flagrant challenge to all divine religions and human values and destructive to human rights and international charters.

In a report on this matter, the Assembly called on all parliaments in Arab and Islamic states and others which respect human rights and values to decisively reject this defamation.

Meanwhile, Mr. 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu, justice minister and attorney general, stressed that Gaspar Biro's report is clearly a conspiracy against [words indistinct] the West's design to destroy Islam and all other divine religions. He said the report had a secular base which called for the separation of religion and the state and used the United Nations as a tool to achieve this.

'Returnee' Condemns Dismissal of Rebel Leader

EA1702220194 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Mr. (Bel Lel), former secretary general of Ayanya Two and a returnee from the ranks of the rebels, has condemend Riak Machar's dismissal of Dr. Lam Akol, who is in charge of the United faction of the rebel movement's foreign relations. (Lel) stated that Akol was dismissed because of intensive pressure brought to bear by foreign forces and the so-called alliance against Lam Akol's opposition to a reunion with rebel Garang. He pointed out that Machar was not empowered to dismiss Lam Akol by himself. (Lel) attacked Garang, describing him as a criminal and a double-crosser.

Machar and Akol had led the faction that split from Garang in August 1991. They formed the Nasir group, which fought in fierce battles against Garang in some areas, with both sides incurring heavy loses. The conflict then turned into mutual retaliatory campaigns and attempts at tribal revenge, the last of which took place last week when tribes from upper Nile and Bahr al-Ghazal attacked a camp west of Nimule housing the families of combatants of the Garang faction, many of whom fled to Uganda.

Kuwait

Minister Hails 'Good Relations' With Iran

LD1702191394 Tehran IRNA in English 1844 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] London, Feb. 17, IRNA—Kuwaiti Minister of Information Shaykh Sa'ud al-Sabah says that Iran is a key ally for peace in the Persian Gulf, but he did not think there can be real security in the region while the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn remains in power.

Speaking at a London press conference Thursday, he said that Kuwait had "good relations" with Iran and that his government was working as much as it can as a "partner" with Tehran. The Islamic Republic was a "major power" and had an important role to play in security of the Persian Gulf, the Kuwaiti minister told foreign journalists.

Iran and Kuwait were fellow victims of Iraqi aggression and the former ambassador to London and Washington said that his government had "respect" for Iran's policy of neutrality during the 1991 allied war to end Iraqi's occupation of Kuwait.

Still feeling bitterness, he believed that the Persian Gulf region would not be able to enjoy security while Saddam was in power. His equal conviction was that UN sanctions against Baghdad would not be lifted, either partially or fully, until he was replaced.

The minister emphasised that he had sympathy with the Iraqi people suffering the effects of more than three years of sanctions, who he said were also victims of the Iraqi regime since Saddam's 1980-88 war against Iran.

With regard to the declining price of oil, he suggested that producing nations should seriously reassess the value of oil in the world and that OPEC and non-OPEC countries needed to cooperate together. Kuwait was not liberated for crude rates of 10 dlrs. [dollars] per barrel, which were "not helpful" to anyone.

Ukrainian Minister Says Kiev To Open Embassy

LD1702141994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1345 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 Feb—Valeriy Kazakov, Ukrainian deputy industry and military industrialization minister, announced here today that the Ukraine parliament approved the opening of a Ukrainian Embassy in Kuwait.

Kazakov, who is visiting Kuwait at the invitation of an international Kuwait exhibition company, said that "this decision received the full approval of Kuwaiti high-ranking officials, particularly in the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry." [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Clinton Receives Fahd Agreement on Aircraft Talks

LD1702102394 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0213 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Excerpts] In a meeting held at the White house today, His Excellency U.S. President Bill Clinton said that he had received a letter from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, which included the agreement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to start negotiations on the purchase of civil aircraft from the United States. [passage omitted]

President Clinton also praised the cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of civil aviation and said that economic relations consolidated and bolstered the current strong political and strategic relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which he said is the object of respect.

His Excellency President Clinton expressed the consideration the Kingdom's decision to start negotiations on buying U.S. civil aircraft as a vote of confidence in the quality of U.S. industry and the strength of U.S. exports.

Afterward, His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Bin-'Abd al-Aziz, the ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to the United States, made an address on this occasion in which he praised the strong relations between the Kingdom and the United States and their steady development since the historical meeting between King 'Abd al-Aziz Al Sa'ud and President Roosevelt.

His royal highness said that Saudi-U.S. relations are based on the principles of common interests and mutual respect.

He said: The Kingdom has invited the U.S. companies Boeing and McDonnel Douglas to send representatives to the Kingdom in March to start negotiations on the Saudi airliner's requirements on aircraft.

The meeting was attended U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher; Secretary of Trade Ronald Brown, Secretary of Transport Federico Pena; the President's national security adviser, Anthony Lake; the White House Chief of Staff, Thomas McLarty; adviser on economic affairs, Robert Rubin; the presidents of McDonnel Douglas and Boeing; representatives of trade unions; and members of the U.S. Congress.

At the end of the meeting, the presidents of the U.S. aircraft manufacturing companies McDonnel Douglas and Boeing expressed their welcome for the step and commended the cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the sphere of air transport and the modernization of the Saudi Arabian airlines' fleet. They also expressed their gratitude to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-Aziz, and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

UN Delegate Affirms Stance Against Bosnian Serbs

LD1702130794 Riyadh SPA in English 1225 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] New York, Feb 17, (SPA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has demanded that the international community must undertake all necessary measures authorized by the charter of the U.N. for implementation of the Security Council resolutions, overed by Chapter Seventh, permitting use of power to force the intrasigent Serbian side in compliance to the rules of the international legality.

Addressing a session held by the Security Council on Tuesday on the Bosnian situation, Ambassador Jaafar al-Leqani, the Saudi permanent representative to the United Nation, stated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had taken an steadfast stand since the start of the crisis to support the people and government of Bosnia- Herzegovina and expressed full support for the resolutions and recommendations made by the London conference, the United Nations and Geneva talks on the matter.

He called on for implementation of the resolution adopted by the Security Council on protection of safe havens in the Bosnian lands and to boost the Bosnian Government's capabilities of self-defense.

" The Saudi position has been emanated from a strong commitment and absolute adherence to the attitudes of the international legality and the international laws and norms." he said.

He called on the Security Council to undertake all possible means to implement more than fifty resolution it made on the Bosnian crisis and said any efforts for a peaceful settlement should take into consideration equal and fair bases because such settlement would be useless if the Serbs were allowed to go ahead with their vicious aggression and genocidal war against the Moslems of the region.

Ambassador Al-Leqani expressed hope that the international community would take a serious and rational step towards the just and legitimate demands of the Republic of Bosnian Government and make sure that the republic would not subject again to any aggressive of genocidal policies, give the Islamic republic a sea outlet and enable her of practicing the legitimate right of self- defense.

Ambassador Al-Leqani denounced the genocidal war being waged by the Serbs and their allies against the Moslem population of Bosni-Herzegovina that led to a tremendous and tragic loss of lives and displacement of thousands.

He cited with resentment the recent bombardment of a marketplace in Sarajevo that killed more than 60 people and the recent Serbian attacks on many of the safe havens declared by the United Nations.

He said the untold and nefarious acts of the Serbs are constituting a great insult for the world's conscience.

Leqani recalled the Saudi warning that any failure in dealing with the Bosnian crisis on bases of the new international order would no doubt endanger the very existance and credibility of that order.

Yemen

Salih, al-Bid Send Messages to Aden Unity Gathering

JN1702212694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has addressed a message to the expanded mass gathering of the Aden Governorate, which opened its activities yesterday evening.

The following is the text of the message:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The brother chairman and members of the expanded people's gathering of the Aden Governorate.

It is my pleasure to extend to you and all the sons of the valiant Aden Governorate my best wishes and congratulations on the blessed month of Ramadan during which your gathering is convening.

No doubt, your gathering is a positive step and bodes well for carrying the accord document—once it is finally signed in a few days, God willing—to a new stage. The most important features of this stage is that it ensures sound development, progress, peace, and unity for unified Yemen.

You are meeting in valiant Aden, which occupies a special place in the heart of every Yemeni, since this city witnessed the greatest positions and noblest sacrifices for the triumph of the 26 September and 14 October Yemeni revolutions against invaders.

In Yemen's contemporary history, this city has been a bright center and a source of radical historical changes, most important of which is raising the flag of unity to flutter high in its skies. Also, Aden witnessed the signing of a historic unionist agreement on 30 November 1989. This valiant city, which occupies a special place in the heart of every Yemeni, has remained a city for honorable unionists of the Yemeni homeland, which is proceeding today toward great changes. These changes will achieve for our people more progress, stability, and peace, God willing, under the banner of the young Yemeni Republic and under the umbrella of the blessed unity, which rid our people of fragmentation, disunity, and backwardness, toward a new world of progress and development. This could never have happened without unity.

While blessing your assembly and blessing all positive steps and national efforts, we tell you that we are very eager to embody and put into action the accord document, which is a practical way out of the political crisis. This document also expresses national consensus. We hope that this document will end all the misunderstandings and disputes that have harmed the interests of the people and the homeland and hampered development efforts in the homeland.

We are confident that your assembly's decisions and recommendations will further enhance the building of unity and the homeland's march. These will be added to what your brothers in the rest of the governorates have contributed. Your decisions and recommendations will also emphasize adherence to our national principles, foremost are unity and democracy, and eagerness to safeguard higher national interests.

We are also fully confident that the masses of the valiant Aden Governorate best reflect the city's history and role, as well as its great national stands in national struggle against hostile and imperialist forces until victory was achieved. Aden became brighter after the proclamation of the state of unity on 22 May 1990. It was a glorious day that dispelled the darkness of fragmentation in the life of our people, ended for good decades of domination and persecution, and ushered in a new era in the life of Yemen based on justice, freedom, and respect for human rights.

Our people have suffered a great deal as a result of the crisis and its negative effects, manifested in price hikes, a drop in the value of the national currency, obstructing work at government departments, administrative chaos, and other phenomena. All these phenomena got worse because of the escalation of the political crisis. As we are about to implement the accord document, we hope that all these regrettable phenomena will end. Our patient people have endured all the negative effects of these phenomena for the sake of unity and democracy.

Despite all the misunderstandings and irregularities that accompanied the regrettable crisis, our people, in all their factions and forces, will maintain their cohesion, strength, and ability to face challenges. Our people will also look with hope and optimism toward ending this accidental crisis and will not be influenced by malicious propaganda that tries to take advantage of this crisis to undermine our national principles, fragment our national unity, and cause bloody conflict, dissension, and catastrophes in Yemen whose scope is only known to God.

However, the people's vigilance and awareness of the objectives of Yemen's enemies has denied the enemies any chance to achieve these objectives. Also, the awareness and vigilance of the Armed Forces and security agencies—and this national institution's awareness of the scope and dangers of being carried away by the enemies' schemes—has thwarted all conspiracies and emphasized that the army of September and October is the army of Yemeni unity and is for all the people. This army cannot but share the same views and options of the people, away from all influences, and defend the homeland, its sovereignty, unity, and democracy.

Concluding, I greet you again and wish your assembly success along the path of defending unity and democracy.

Peace be upon you.

Also, a message from brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], was read.

To begin, the message conveyed the YSP Political Bureau's wishes for the success of this important gathering. It stated that the YSP remains true to the position it chose for itself in the course of the struggle of the Yemeni people for their freedom and comprehensive social progress.

The message stressed that the YSP, which has contributed, along with all national forces, toward drafting the accord document, will be faithful to the implementation of this document.

The gathering opened its activities yesterday evening with several speeches and poems. Brother Fadl 'Ali 'Abdallah, head of the preparatory committee of the Aden gathering, made a speech in which he welcomed the attendees. He noted the importance of holding such a gathering in Aden, which saw the birth of the accord document. The Yemeni masses think of this document as a solution that embodies a comprehensive national program.

Other speeches were made on behalf of other mass gatherings in the governorates of Ibb, Hadramaut, and Shabwah, expressing hope for their success. Leaders for the gathering's committees were elected and a plan of action was read, reviewing the situation of the homeland. The plan was discussed by the attendees.

GPC Condemns Assassination of Two Cadre Members

JN1702210894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2010 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] The General Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] has issued the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Think not of those who are slain in Allah's way as dead. Nay, they live, finding their sustenance from their Lord. [Koranic verse]

The General Committee of the GPC announces the death of brother 'Abd-al-Hamid Ahmad Mahmud al-Sarfi and Mahdi Muhammad Subayh, members of the GPC and two of its leading cadres in the Bani-al-Harith District, (?Sa'dah) Governorate. The two were killed in a

criminal assassination attempt carried out by a professional group belonging to one of the political organizations that adopt violence as a means to deal with those who differ with them. The incident took place the day before yesterday.

We in the GPC denounce and condemn this incident and all acts of terrorism and ask the security agencies to promptly arrest the killers, put them on trial, and give them a just punishment. The security agencies should also uncover the motives of those behind the plot.

We also take this opportunity to reassert to our people our absolute faith and full commitment to national principles and state that we will be the first to champion those principles, for which the two martyred died.

The GPC urges all its members, supporters, and sons of the great Yemeni people to be vigilant and foil any feverish attempts that seek to undermine Yemeni national gains and the achievements of the Yemeni people.

We share with the GPC branch in the Bani-al-Harith and its supporters, members, the families of the martyrs, and the sons of the Bani-al-Harith, the sorrow of this loss. We also beseech God to have mercy on the two and place them in paradise, along with martyrs and righteous people, and to grant their families patience and solace. To God we are and unto Him we shall return. May the eyes of the cowardly remain sleepless.

Issued by the General Committee of the GPC on 17 February 1994.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To the righteous soul will be said: O thou soul: In complete rest and satisfaction, come back thou to thy Lord, well pleased thyself and well-pleasing unto Him. Enter thou, then, among My devotees. Ye, enter thou My heaven. [Koranic verse]

Basindwah on Upcoming Signing Ceremonies in Amman

JN1702175994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] The Political Forces Dialogue Committee in Yemen is meeting today to finalize travel arrangements to Amman where the accord agreement is scheduled to be signed next Sunday [20 February]. It will be the committee's last meeting and will put the final touches on the measures leading up to the signing ceremonies. On the telephone from Yemen, the country's Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah told our news desk:

[Begin Basindwah recording] It was only natural that we decide on Amman, the capital of brotherly Jordan, to be the venue for signing the accord document, in view of the key role played by Jordanian officials, above all His Majesty King Husayn, in the reconciliation effort. If the signing is not to take place on Yemeni territory, then Amman is the right choice. We hope that when the signing takes place on 10 Ramadan [20 February] in Amman, it will mark the beginning of the end of the crisis that—had it not been for God's providence—would have pushed Yemen over the brink of disaster. I hope Amman's spiritual atmosphere in this favored month will rub off on the signing ceremonies. I am confident that his majesty's wisdom will go a long way toward a Yemeni reunion and the closing of ranks so we can pursue our constructive drive on the road to unity and democracy and a glorious and immortal Yemen will emerge, and, God willing, our country will be a source of strength and support for all its Arab brethren. [end recording]

Law Minister Condemns 'All Yemeni Officials'

PM1802105094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Feb 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hamud Munsir: "Legal Affairs Minister Karman Urges That All Yemeni Officials Stand Trial"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa—Yemeni Legal Affairs Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Khalid Karman has criticized all Yemeni officials, saying "they are all subject to punishment by law and should all, including Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar (speaker of the House of Representatives and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping), stand trial. Because they all failed to refer to the law. If they did, the situation in the country would not have reached its present state."

This came in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by the Yemeni minister, in a discussion of the legal and constitutional dimensions of Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas' decision to appoint Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad—one of former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's men, former Abyan governor, and an uncooperative member of the General People's Congress [GPC] General Committee (Political Bureau)—as governor of Abyan again, and the Presidential Council's decision revoking al-'Attas' decision a few hours later. He described the two decisions as "bombs and rockets" in a battle whose two parties are about to meet in Amman to sign the Pledge and Accord Document.

Karman stressed that "Yemen is not governed by the law, but by political quarrels." [passage omitted]

He added: "They insulted the decisions and laws, and hence themselves. Because they—the authorities—are responsible for the decisions and for implementing the laws. And neither history nor the people will have mercy on them." He urged GPC and Socialist Party leaders to "have mercy on the Yemeni people and refer to the law." He accused all those who signed the Pledge and Accord Document of "violating legitimacy and forgetting the signal of the parliamentary elections held on 27 April, which resulted in the formation of the present House of Representatives and hence the ruling coalition."

Saddam Visits al-Ta'mim Governorate, Karkuk

JN1602201994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] The city of Karkuk, the center of the al-Ta'mim Governorate, experienced one of Ramadan's happiest days today when leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, paid an auspicious visit to the city. When his excellency arrived at the governorship, he was welcomed by al-Ta'mim Governor Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri. Following a brief respite, the leader president toured the city. During the tour, he visited a residential district, amid citizens' happiness, welcome, and chants. His excellency inspected a citizen's house and inquired about his conditions. His excellency also listened to a number of citizens as they explained their problems, and instructed that these problems be resolved.

Afterward, the leader president, may God preserve him, accompanied by the al-Ta'mim governor, toured a number of markets in the governorate. He inspected some private shops.

Wherever the leader president arrived, the masses assembled and shouted: We Sacrifice Our Souls and Blood for You, Saddam. You Are Most Welcome.

During the tour, the leader president waved his noble arm to greet the masses who rallied around him. Afterward, the leader president, may God protect him, left the city. He was seen off by comrade Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Husayn, member of the Iraq Command, and Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri, al-Ta'mim governor.

Allocates 15 Million Dinars for Karkuk

JN1702192594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has ordered the allocation of 15 million dinars to promote services in the city of Karkuk. Al-Ta'mim Governor Hisham Sabah Fakhri announced this to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the al-Ta'mim Governorate.

The governor added that the amount of money allotted by President leader Saddam Husayn's new noble gesture, which his excellency made public during his visit to the governorate yesterday, Wednesday, was disbursed as follows: Six million dinars to promote the Karkuk municipality's projects; three million dinars to build an Olympic playground in the governorate's center, which was damaged during the 30-state aggression; three million dinars to build the al-Andalus bridge, the third bridge in the city; and three million dinars to enhance the projects of the Water and Sewage Directorate and promote its services.

In the name of the governorate's masses and clans, the governor pledged to President leader Saddam Husayn that the governorate will remain proud, thanks to the president's leadership and generous paternal care. He also pledged that the governorate's sons will be faithful men who will defend great Iraq and the achievements of the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

Troops Reportedly Massing 3 Km From Kuwait

NC1702163794 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Informed sources have affirmed that they have seen the tyrant Saddam's forces massing 3 km from the border strip with Kuwait in the area between Umm Qasr and (Hafr al-Batin). Our sources in al-Basrah quote these sources as saying that Saddam's authorities are currently sending reinforcements to their forces there consisting of armored units and advanced tanks, which are being moved at night from various main points in the al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah, and al-'Amarah Governorates.

The sources said the troops massing on the border with Kuwait are among the elite units of the Presidential Guard, which underwent many courses and combat training recently.

Saddam's Son-in-Law Reportedly in Paris for Treatment

PM1702123094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Feb 94 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Paris Does Not Deny Receiving Saddam's Son-in-Law After Surgery in Amman"]

[Excerpt] Paris, London, AL-HAYAH—Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the Iraqi president's adviser, left Amman yesterday after undergoing brain surgery for the removal of a brain tumor. It has been rumored that he was moved to Paris for further treatment. The French Foreign Ministry refused to confirm the report but did not deny it.

A medical source in the Jordanian capital has confirmed that Husayn Kamil Hasan, Saddam's son-in-law, did leave the hospital after the "delicate" operation. He added that the tumor was not cancerous. It should be noted that Saddam's son-in-low is the head of the Iraqi Military Industrialization Authority.

A French Foreign Ministry source said that he could not confirm or deny that the Iraqi president's adviser was moved to Paris.

Sources of the Unified Iraqi National Congress have told AL-HAYAH that Husayn Kamil was moved to Paris in the company of a Jordanian doctor and that the operation to take a brain cell biopsy lasted eight hours, after which Saddam's son-in-law was kept in an intensive care unit and then at dawn on Tuesday was moved to "an unknown location" before he was taken to Paris yesterday.

The sources concluded that the operation revealed the seriousness of Husayn Kamil's case, necessitating his transfer to France. [passage omitted]

Cuba's Castro Sends Thank-You Cable to Saddam

JN1702131194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a thank-you cable from Fidel Castro, president of Cuba's Council of State and Council of Ministers, in reply to the two cables of congratulations his excellency sent on the Cuban Revolution Anniversary and the New Year.

Following is the text:

Saddam Husayn, Republic of Iraq president. With pleasure, I received the two friendly cables of congratulations which you sent to us on the 35th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution and the New Year. I take this opportunity to stress to your excellency that the fruitful ties of friendship and cooperation will continue. I also take this opportunity to express my sincere wishes of good health to yourself and happiness to the Iraqi people. With my deep respect.

[Signed] Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers in the Republic of Cuba

Cairo-Baghdad Travel Reportedly 'Stopped Completely'

NC1702164894 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Travel from Cairo to Baghdad has stopped completely in the past few weeks due to deteriorating economic conditions, escalating violence, and the harassment of Egyptian nationals in Iraq by the ruling dictator's authorities.

The head of the regime's interests section in Cairo has admitted that the regime has stopped granting entry visas to Egyptians because of the lack of job opportunities and the deteriorating economic conditions in Iraq.

In another development, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has instructed its mission in Baghdad to prepare an urgent report on the number of Egyptians being held prisoner in Iraq. A spokesman for the ministry has said that the number of Egyptian prisoners is not less than 500, sentenced to serve between two years and life imprisonment at hard labor.

Article Views Motives of Anti-Baghdad 'Aggression'

JN1802071594 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 12 Feb 94 p 9

[Unattributed article]

[Text] In a letter from Clinton to the American Congress, the waffler contended that Iraq has yet to do what it is required to do in the area of the destruction of weapons of mass destruction. He demanded that Iraq accede to a long-term monitoring and inspection program before the sanctions are lifted. Taking into account the fact the 30-state aggression on Iraq had set out to achieve the objective of keeping Iraq from developing an arms industry so that the Zionists maintain their edge, we are bound to conclude that the attacks on Iraq were stage managed in order to attack Iraq's force and prevent it from posing any threat to Zionism.

That was the true motive behind the aggression on Iraq. However, the war the United States launched on Iraq and the subsequent sanctions and inspection have failed to advance the goal Washington had in mind. The waffler Clinton's statements may then be explained as follows:

No nation on earth will voluntarily surrender its power and weapons that it is supposed to use as a deterrent against its enemies. There is only one way whereby a given nation will be forced into capitulation and disarmament, and that is total war and occupation— elements that were lacking in the aggression on Iraq, because the war was technologically-based and involved no confrontstion.

Throughout history whenever Iraq came under siege, blockades have been shown to be less than foolproof. It has also been shown that a siege of a country that has borders with six countries cannot possibly be one hundred percent effective.

What the present crisis boils down to is that the United States wants Iraq to make concessions that it could not force on it through war. The war, whose real "hero" the war criminal George Bush fell from power, had more in common with fantasy than reality.

In their attitude toward Iraq, the United States and the West find themselves in a unique, unfamiliar situation. For them, war means their adversary's outright capitulation. Consider Germany and Japan, among others. For the first time ever, the West has faced a unique and special situation of its kind—one in which the adversary has not been browbeaten into submission. This is despite the fact that that the adversary's forces were forced into a withdrawal, and, by Western standards, were at a qualitative disadvantage.

The West miscalculated. The victory claimed by the criminal Bush merely drove Iraqi forces from the governorate of Kuwait. However, that victory has failed to destroy the adversary's force or subjugate it. It is an established fact that it was the United States that brought the hostilities to a halt. It shied away from sending its combat troops deep inside Iraq, a substantial part of whose armed forces remained intact.

The result waffler Clinton would have liked the 1991 war to produce was a far cry from how it actually turned out. In the conventional terms of war and defeat, that war failed to turn out to the waffler Clinton's satisfaction. In conventional terms, the West is incapable of engaging in close combat, occupying enemy territory, or scouring every inch of territory for weapons to destroy them. The waffler Clinton and the West are betting on the sanctions

to realize their ambitions in Iraq. We doubt that the sanctions will deliver the goods.

Columnist: Put 'Espionage' Satellites Under UN Control

JN1602174994 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 12 Feb 94 p 2

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif: "Toward International Control of Earth Satellites"]

[Text] It is time the earth satellites of a military and intelligence nature are placed under international control. For it is inconceivable for the big powers, headed by the United States, to continue violating the national independence and sovereignty of world nations for decades.

International control means restricting the activity of these satellites under an international treaty so that it does not extend beyond the borders of the states concered.

No doubt, the Third World countries are the main target of the hostile satellite activity conducted by the major states, especially the big capitalist powers. Therefore, they must either find the necessary means to counter the dangers of these satellites by taking the initiative to call an international conference to be attended by all states concerned in order to discuss this issue, or raise the matter with the UN General Assembly or Security Council, despite the hardships they might expect from the United States and its Western allies in the United Nations.

By stressing the danger of the espionage satellites to the Third World countries, we are not excluding their danger to some European and Asian states which are allies of the United States. But this alliance has not protected, and will not protect, the national independence and sovereignty of those states or their underground resources; nor will it protect telephone conversations between government officials, company owners, board directors, and, in fact, anything in those states which is considered vital to the United States.

Perhaps, it is important when seriously discussing the drafting of a treaty or an agreement on earth satellites to take into consideration the scores of satellites which have been orbiting the earth for several years carrying out intelligence and military missions for their states.

These satellites must be destroyed. The data they have collected so far must be placed at the disposal of the United Nations through an elected special commission, which would decide what to do with this data for the sake of protecting other nations' independence and sovereignty. There must be a complete ban on the use of outer space for military purposes. Furthermore, the United Nations should be informed about the programs of satellites which are used for non- military purposes. It would be useful if the programs of the United Nations and its cultural and social agencies, which are actually based on the UN Charter and not influenced by U.S. foreign policy, could be transmitted via these satellites on a worldwide basis in the interest of international peace and security and the cause of common understanding and friendship among peoples and nations.

Nobody doubts the hardships and financial problems facing the world organization and its various agencies. But launching a special UN satellite is a more worthwhile cause than spending money on so-called peacekeeping forces dispatched here and there under the UN flag, when the country responsible for starting crises in various parts of the world is the one that refuses to pay its financial contribution to the budget of the United Nations and its agencies, but which can be more generous sometimes when it comes to dirty missions undertaken by its forces and the forces of other nations in such countries as Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Angola, and elsewhere.

The Americans and their Western allies are turning the United Nations into a murderer and a policeman, and an arsonist and a fireman at the same time. This is the tragedy of the organization that was originally established for the sake of achieving and preserving world peace. It is sinking to its ears in the quagmire.

While the United States claims to defend international peace and security, what it does in practice is that it places the national security of world nations at the mercy of U.S. national security through these satellites and sophisticated espionage aircraft, which conduct their operations outside international control. Of course, all this takes place under the infamous U.S. theory that considers American interests and individuals as part of the national security that the U.S. Administraton must defend by every means, including the use of military force against any country where American interests or nationals may have been exposed to danger, despite the lack of a political motive.

It is strange indeed that nobody inside or outside the Third World countries has thought about the danger of U.S. and allied satellites to their national security. And if they have, we have not heard a single opposition voice to the operations of these satellites in international organizations. This attitude has encouraged and is still encouraging the imperialists to continue to use outer space for spying on other nations and collecting military and economic data with complete disregard for the meaning of the national independence and sovereignty of those nations.

Rabin: Katyusha Fired by Splinter Fatah Group

TA1702164094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the katyusha that fell on the Galilee was fired by a marginal organization. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports from the broadcast van at the Labor Party building:

[Begin recording] [Tal] The Labor Party Bureau is today addressing many issues. Among other things, Prime Minister Rabin was asked about the katyusha attack in the north. Rabin said this attack was contrary to all the understandings attained in the wake of Operation Accountability. He noted, however, that there was no basic change in the situation:

[Rabin] Our understandings with Syria regarding Hizballah remain in effect. Today we know the katyusha was launched by a splinter Palestinian group that seceded from Fatah due to its opposition to the Declaration of Principles in particular and to the peace process in general. We will operate as we deem necessary. This organization calls itself the Black 13 September Organization—this does not refer to the 13th of September 1970, but rather to 1993. I believe that this is a marginal organization that does not even approximate the magnitude of threat posed by Hizballah. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will find the appropriate way to deal with this issue.

[Tal] Referring to Syria, Rabin said the ball is now in its court. Progress depends not only on Israel, but on Syria as well.

[Rabin] Why is there no progress? Because Syria poses demands we cannot accept. We must adhere to our positions, and if Syria wants peace it must adjust to our demands and meet us halfway. [end recording]

Syrian Source Rejects Charge

NC1702192294 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] In a telephone interview with MBC today, Israeli Defense Ministry Spokesman (Odet Ben'ami) said the Palestinian Black 13 September Organization [as heard] fired a Katyusha rocket at northern Israel last night. He blamed Syria and Lebanon on the grounds that Syria controls most of Lebanon and that all the activities of Hizballah and other organizations are carried out under its supervision, as he put it.

Black September broke away from the Fatah Movement after the signing of the Oslo accord in September. It is led by Colonel Munir Maqdah, who is currently in Lebanon.

In contacts with MBC this evening, a Syrian source rejected Israel's charge that Damascus is responsible for firing the Katyusha rocket at the Galilee. He emphasized that it is not Syria's task to guarantee protection for Israel.

Israeli Arab Delegation To Visit Syria's al-Asad

TA1802061794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] An Israeli Arab delegation is to travel in the coming days to Syria to extend condolences to President Hafiz al-Asad on the death of his son last month. The delegation will be headed by Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah. Darawshah says Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa personally intervened to make the historic visit possible.

Here in Israel, a senior official in the Prime Minister's Office called the news of the Syrian decision encouraging. David Ze'ev reports:

On Tuesday [15 February], Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said a positive reply to MK Darawshah's request would mark some kind of change in the Syrian attitude toward Israel. At the Prime Minister's Office last night, a senior source reacted by saying the fact that President al-Asad has given the Israeli Arab delegation permission to make the trip contains in it something encouraging. The source went on to say that there could be a connection between the positive Syrian reply and the recent statements coming out of Israel that Damascus is not showing any openness toward Israel. Both Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have spoken out strongly on the issue during the past week.

[Begin recording] [Darawshah] As I know, it's the first time that the Syrian Government is allowing any Israeli Arab citizen to enter Syria.

[Ze'ev] When will you be going?

[Darawshah] I suppose in the coming few days. We got the permission through the Egyptian ambassador in Israel, in which he informed me that the Syrians are welcoming the coming of the delegation.

[Ze'ev] Did the Egyptians act as mediators?

[Darawshah] They made their good efforts to convey our message to Mr. President Hafiz al-Asad, to pass the message, and also to mediate as brothers—especially the foreign minister, Mr. 'Amr Musa, who intervened in this issue.

[Ze'ev] Will you take the opportunity to promote Syrian-Israeli peace efforts or the release of missing Israeli servicemen, any issue like that?

[Darawshah] We are going to pay our condolences as a human issue, and we do not think that we are going for political reasons. Mr. Rabin did not ask me to pass any messages, and he knows very well that I'm going on a human basis. [end recording]

MK Darawshah says his delegation will number 30 or 31 people: mayors, poets, writers, religious and other leading personalities among the Arab population in Israel.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 18 February adds that upon learning from the Egyptian ambassador that he had been granted permission to visit Syria, MK Darawshah "contacted Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in his capacity as defense minister and asked his permission. The prime minister immediately gave his consent. Moreover, Rabin emphasized he would take all the necessary steps to facilitate the visit. The prime minister informed Darawshah that he has authorized Eytan Haber, the director of his bureau, to be in constant contact with Darawshah in order to pave the way for the departure of the delegation."]

Peres Sees Visit as 'Positive Signal'

TA1802113694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Gid'on Zelinger; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [Zelinger] We will now talk about the political agenda with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Shalom to you, sir.

[Peres] Shalom.

[Zelinger] An Israeli delegation—albeit one consisting of Israeli Arabs—is due to depart for Syria. Will you ask Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah or any other delegation member to convey any message to President al-Asad?

[Peres] I do not think that is necessary, because the purpose of this visit is to convey condolences. That was the reason cited in the application for permission to visit, and I think it should be honored. There is no need to turn a condolence visit into something else. Moreover, sending messages is not a problem. There are constant exchanges.

[Zelinger] I know Israel has been trying to open more than one channel of negotiations with Syria.

[Peres] That is correct. I know that on this occasion, however, the visas were granted for the purpose of calling on the bereaved family, and this should be honored.

[Zelinger] Would you like to comment on the very fact of the visit? Is the departure of an Israeli delegation to Damascus an important event?

[Peres] I think it is a positive signal and I welcome it, although it has its limitations. It does not yet herald a burst of possibilities. It is a signal—a positive and not at all negligible one—but that is all it is. [passage omitted]

Minister Calls For Golan Heights' Return to Syria

NC1602172894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)—Shulamit Aloni, Israeli director of scientific research and communications [title as received], has called for the return of the occupied Golan Heights to Syria. She has also expressed her opposition to the idea of holding a referendum on withdrawal from the Heights, stressing that the Israeli Government has full authority to make a political decision without the need for a referendum.

In an interview to be published in the 17 February issue of the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, she said that in accordance with international law, the Golan Heights must return to Syria. She indicated that the problem with the negotiations lies in the timeframe and the security arrangements.

The Israeli minister criticized the Israeli Government's lukewarm reaction to the Geneva summit between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

On the Israeli request for a meeting between President al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Aloni explained that such a meeting might set things in motion.

On Israel's arbitrary measures in the occupied territories, Aloni said: In my opinion, we as a people are living with a sharp moral dilemma. We speak about democracy and human rights while we rob the Palestinian people of their rights. She indicated that the mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO will entrench equality and mutual respect.

Regarding armaments and nuclear deterrents, Aloni said: Israel's fears are from Iran and Iraq. These fears extend to the whole region. So Israel is arming itself with long-range weapons that act as a deterrent against Iraq and Iran and, to some extent, against Syria. She indicated that after progress is made in the peace process, this topic will be submitted for discussion with Egypt and Syria.

On Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon, Aloni said Israel has no ambitions in Lebanon. It will withdraw from south Lebanon when peace is established with Syria.

Beilin Denies Allegations of Provoking Civil War

TA1802073994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] In an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat sharply criticized the United States for refusing to intervene in the negotiations between Israel and the PLO to ensure the implementation of their agreement. He reiterated his accusation that Israel is handing out large quantities of weapons in the

territories to provoke a civil war among the Palestinians after its withdrawal. According to him, this is a well-planned operation being carried out under the auspices of several Israeli officers in the territories. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin categorically denied 'Arafat's allegations:

[Begin Beilin recording] The very fact that 'Arafat makes such remarks today certainly cannot add to the kind of good atmosphere we need to complete the negotiations. I consider it a big mistake on his part, and I hope it will not hinder the completion of the negotiations so that we may wrap up all the issues on the agenda with regard to Gaza and Jericho and proceed to implement the decisions we have made. [end recording]

Beilin: Only Humanitarian Aid for UN Missions

TA1702080494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Israel has informed the UN secretary general it is ready to set up and maintain a hospital in Angola. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin also told reporter David Essing that Israel has decided not to participate in international peacekeeping missions abroad.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] Our only decision is to take part in humanitarian efforts in Angola. We are ready to do that, and I will inform the UN secretary general about that decision. Maybe later on, in due time, such a decision that you are referring to will be taken, but time is not ripe now to take it.

[Essing] What kind of participation will Israel be giving to this Angolan project?

[Beilin] We are speaking about establishing and controlling a hospital in Angola, sending doctors and some other medical services to Angola, and to keep this hospital for a while.

[Essing] Any time frame for this? When will this be taking place?

[Beilin] There are still many conditions, and the first one is that there will be peace in Angola. This is far from being the reality, and the fighting between Savimbi and Dos Santos in Angola still takes place, so we cannot know exactly the timing of such a decision, but it won't be tomorrow. [end recording]

In an address last night, Beilin said also that two representatives of countries he declined to name recently visited Israel seeking advice and training in the resolution of disputes. He did not elaborate.

Peres Meets With EC Official on Trade Ties

TA1802075994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced last night that negotiations with the European Commission on a new trade agreement will begin in Brussels next week. The foreign minister spoke to reporters in Jerusalem at a joint news conference with the vice president of the European Commission, Manuel Marin. Steve Linde reports:

[Begin recording] [Linde] Foreign Minister Peres said the talks that would lead to a free trade zone between Israel and the European Commission will begin on the 21st of February. Peres said the new trade agreement would represent a new chapter in relations between Israel and the European Union, and he spelled out the implications of the agreement:

[Peres] In addition to be raised in the rank so we shall become an associated member of the European Economic Space, specifically what we want are the following: to be a full member of the research and development community. The second point, economically speaking, is that we would like to be able to produce in Israel products that will be considered as products of the Common Market. Thirdly, we would like to extend and enlarge our participation and the participation on a mutual basis of the Common Market in public tenders and governmental tenders. Fourth, we would like to have a slight improvement in the quota of our agricultural exports, particularly when we are opening our markets—as the minister of agriculture has mentioned already—to the products of the people of the territories.

[Linde] The vice president of the European Commission, Manuel Marin, said the agreement being offered to Israel was unique and could not apply to any other country.

[Marin] At the end of the negotiation we are going to have with Israel a free trade zone. Well, this specific situation concerning trade, industry, research, and technology, etc., etc., is only possible to have with Israel, not with another neighbor, because of the different economic development.

[Linde] The new agreement will replace the more limited cooperation accord concluded in 1975 between the EC and Israel. Marin said it was made possible by the Declaration of Principles signed between Israel and the PLO and reflects the Union's backing for the Middle East peace process. [end recording]

Settlers Claim Peres Pledged Refugee Return

TA1502114794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Former Tehiya Knesset Member Elyaqim Ha'etzni says the YESHA' [Hebrew acronym for Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza] settlers council has received intelligence information that Foreign Minister Peres made verbal promises to Yasir 'Arafat during the Oslo talks to admit 300,000 Palestinian refugees and to start the process of dismantling the settlements.

The YESHA' Council yesterday decided to draw up a list of volunteers who will be available at short notice to physically resist the evacuation of settlements. The move

followed comments by Foreign Minister Peres questioning the viability of the Gaza Strip settlement of Netzarim. [passage omitted]

Portuguese Foreign Minister Arrives on 2-Day Visit

TA1702115494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Feb 94 p A9

[ITIM report]

[Text] Portuguese Foreign Minister Jose Durao Barroso arrived in Israel yesterday afternoon for a two-day visit, his first to this country.

Upon his arrival, Barroso said he is closely involved in the Middle East peace process and noted that he had conferred with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres during the latter's visit to Portugal and with Yasir 'Arafat.

According to Barroso, the purpose of his visit is to deepen relations between Israel and Portugal in political, economic, trade, and tourism spheres. Upon his arrival yesterday, Barroso stated that Portugal and Israel will also deepen their cultural ties.

Yehuda Milo, assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry, who greeted Barroso at the airport, said that there is fruitful cooperation between the defense industries of Israel and Portugal and that the two countries are now working on a cooperation agreement in the area of science and development. The agreement may be ready to be signed when Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visits Lisbon next week.

Barroso was scheduled to confer with President 'Ezer Weizman last night and later to dine with Minister Peres. Today the Portuguese foreign minister will hold a working session with his Israeli counterpart, confer with the prime minister, and tour the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum. He will also be briefed on the region by a senior Army officer.

Meets With Peres, Palestinians

TA1702121094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel will take all the necessary measures to stop Lebanese terrorists from launching katyusha rockets towards northern Israel. Peres made the comment after a meeting in Jerusalem this morning with his Portuguese counterpart, Jose Durao Barroso. The foreign minister of Portugal said his country supports the new trade agreement between Israel and the European Union. Steve Linde has the details:

[Begin recording] [Linde] [passage omitted] The Portuguese foreign minister noted that negotiations are now beginning for a new trade agreement between Israel and the European Union, and he added, Portugal firmly supports the move.

[Barroso] Now we are going to begin negotiations—the European Union with Israel—for a new agreement, and Portugal was among the countries from the very beginning that supported that very idea of a new mandate to negotiate with Israel.

[Linde] Foreign Minister Peres pointed out that Prime Minister Rabin will visit Portugal later this month. He explained the importance of Portugal to Israel:

[Peres] Our interest is many-sided, the bilateral relations, which now took a momentum in the domain of the economy and culture. We just exchanged a protocol to abolish visas, something that will enable tourists and businessmen from the two countries to visit and act in better conditions. Then again, Portugal is a very important member in the EC, and our relations with the EC also has many sides: political and economic. No wonder [words indistinct] side and the peace process.

[Linde] Foreign Minister Durao Barroso also met with the prime minister this morning and held talks with the Palestinian delegation in East Jerusalem after his meeting with Shim'on Peres. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 17 February carries a related report on "Barroso's meeting in East Jerusalem with Faysal al-Husayni, in which he promised the Palestinians aid in developing tourism. After the meeting, al-Husayni said that despite the progress in the talks, Israel is not taking steps to prove to the residents of the territories that peace is drawing closer; therefore, they are losing faith in the political process. Al-Husayni confirmed that the Palestinians plan to set up a shadow municipality in Jerusalem to handle East Jerusalem during the autonomy period."]

Yemeni Delegation Arrives for Signing Ceremony

JN1802075494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, arrived in Amman yesterday at the head of a Yemeni delegation which includes Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, minister of housing and urban planning; Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman, head of the Yemeni vice president's office; and a number of officials and media men to prepare for a visit by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who will sign the Yemeni document of pledge and accord in Amman on Sunday, 20 February. The document aims at ending the crisis in fraternal Yemen so that the brothers would resume their march of unity, democracy, and prosperity, God willing.

On arrival at Amman Airport, Salim Salih Muhammad made a press statement in which he expressed his thanks and deep appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn, the Jordanian Government, and the Jordanian people for hosting the Yemeni reconciliation meeting in Amman of all the Arabs. He said: We are pleased that Amman is the venue of this meeting which is awaited by the Arab nation and those who love democracy, especially the Yemeni people, since the document which will be signed in Amman is the common denominator which was agreed on by the Yemeni people represented by their popular and political parties and key figures.

He said that the Amman meeting will contribute to entrenching democracy, which the Yemeni community is witnessing during these historic moments. He noted the pan-Arab role Jordan is playing on all levels.

The delegation was received at the airport by Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar, deputy prime minister; Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Nusur, minister of public works and housing; and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman.

Yemeni Unity Said Blow To 'Some' Hostile Arabs

JN1802120594 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Feb 94 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Yemeni Unity"]

[Text] Some Arabs and their yellow press are giving preference to the differences among the Yemeni brothers over other issues. Some are even inflating these differences more than the enemy. Some are trading in them, as if betrayal of the homeland's unity is a profitable trade. Some become angry and rancorous every time there are reports that the Yemeni brothers are about to reach an agreement to contain their differences and sign a document of pledge which will safeguard the dignity of the one Yemeni homeland and maintain its great pride.

Some Arabs' hostility to all forms of unity wherever it may be is an old but new hostility. We know that it is in their interest to maintain this hostility. We also know that they are not annoyed when they are accused of regionalism, conspiring against unity, and of having a continuous willingness to strike at the nation's dearest principles and convictions. It is important for them to maintain their own interests, which contradict those of the one Arab nation. It is also important for them to hold on to their privileges and trivialities, which harm the one nation's privileges. Therefore, they continue to stand in the trench of fragmentation against the trench of unity. They also continue to stand in the front of putrid regionalism against the front of honorable supporters of pan-Arabism. Their stand and press cannot but be a continuation of their stands toward every unionist plan which carried great hopes through the efforts of sincere people or which left behind many wounds as a result of disappointment caused by those who are hostile to these hopes as well as the unionist hopes and aspirations.

Yemen's unity came as a painful strike to all Arab separatists. The unionists' concern to protect and entrench this unity harms those who used their press, money, movements, and connections against the nation efforts to eliminate the elements of its weakness, chief of which are division and fragmentation. Therefore, we look forward to the meeting of Yemeni brothers in Amman, the capital of reconciliation and accord, with joy, hope, and optimism in order to achieve a big step on the road to entrenching Yemeni unity and striking a strong blow to the faces of the enemies who are most hostile to our unity, liberty, and dignity. This takes place at a time when we need some joy after the Gulf tragedy took away all our joy for reasons that are no secret to anyone and with means that are known to all.

Minister on Dinar Use in Palestinian 'Entity'

JN1502152894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Amjad Mu'alla]

[Text] Finance Minister Sami Qammuh has said continued use of the Jordanian dinar in the occupied territories after establishment of the Palestinian entity will not affect its value, but will keep the dinar strong and stable.

Answering questions posed by journalists yesterday, Qammuh said the stability of the dinar inside and outside Jordan is guaranteed by the foreign currency cover.

He expressed the hope that coordination and cooperation in all fields will continue between Jordan and the Palestinian entity in the future.

Qammuh held a news conference at the Customs Department in which he explained all aspects of the implementation of the sales tax and its impact on the Jordanian economy and citizens.

Syrian Succession Issue, Peace Position Viewed

JN1502105094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Feb 94 p 4

[By G.H. Jansen]

[Text] Damascus—Now that the tragic death in a car crash of Major Basil al-Asad, the eldest son and heir apparent of President Hafiz al-Asad, has been mourned and a consensus on who will ultimately succeed the president seems to have developed, Syria can get back to its main preoccupation, the peace process with Israel.

On the streets of Damascus, one can still see black mourning flags and long black streamers hanging down the facades of buildings while tens of thousands of pictures of Basil are on almost every wall. Although Basil was not a real candidate to succeed his father because at 32 he was eight years too young for the post, his death revealed that for at least five and perhaps 10 years, he was being groomed for leadership through service in the army and as his father's personal assistant, during which time he performed delicate negotiations in Lebanon.

Three weeks after his death, a consensus on what the succession will be has emerged. It is expected that there will be no one leader after President al-Asad but a collective leadership of, perhaps, three persons (because a triumvirate is more stable than a duumvirate) while the primus inter pares, eventually, will most probably be 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, presently the first vice president and for many years the forceful foreign minister and Syrian viceroy for Lebanon. But since Mr. Khaddam is a Sunni Muslim, he would require the backing of the real holders of power, a group of generals belonging to the 'Alawite minority, who, though only 11 per cent of the population, have been the overlords in Syria for over two decades.

The succession question out of the way, for the time being Syrian attention switched back to the other major preoccupation, peace with Israel. This, too, has been clarified and by none other than the main Israeli negotiator with Syria, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who on Feb. 11, said that "there was no chance of an Israeli-Syrian agreement"—which is true—in the present format of their talks—which is untrue. There is nothing wrong with the bilateral format except for the fact that in the talks an irresistible force, Syrian determination, has come up against an immovable object, Israel's intransignce: Syria has not budged an inch from its well-established position that Israel must vacate the whole of the occupied Golan Heights—no return, no peace—and Israel will not budge an inch in refusing to return the Golan only at best the smaller portion of it.

The Syrians have almost reached the point of accepting that the Israelis are never going to concede on the Golan. The Syrians will accept this position because they will have no choice. But Israel will not get the peace which it says it wants: "The Arabs cannot make war without Egypt and cannot make peace without Syria." For how long more would Syria be prepared to go on with the present fruitless exercise?—Perhaps another half year.

A recent display of Israel's stubborn arrogance has further convinced the Syrians that that is what is going to happen. They noted the way in which the Israelis slapped their great and good friend U.S. President Bill Clinton in the face when they rubbished his claim that Syrian clarifications at the Geneva summit of what Syria meant by full peace and normalisation were "new" and "very important," which is exactly so. And having been slapped, Mr. Clinton, like a good Christian, turned the other cheek, when a few days ago, his secretary of state announced officially that the U.S. was not going to pressure Israel on withdrawing from the Golan.

But because the Israelis, like that other difficult and dangerous people, the Serbs, only make concessions when under pressure, where is the pressure on Israel going to come from when the U.S. has opted out? Perhaps from the Palestinian people in the occupied territories who, individually, are killing individual Israelis on an almost daily basis. That would explain why Damascus is the headquarters of no less than 10 "rejectionist" Palestinian groups which oppose the peace process and particularly the Oslo accord. It would also explain why Damascus refuses to curb the pro-Iranian Hizballah, which maintains pressure on Israeli forces occupying parts of southern Lebanon. The message from Damascus is clear: If there is no peace, there will be an Arab war of attrition against Israelis in occupied Arab territories.

Christopher Reportedly Warns of Israeli Attack

NC1702140694 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Israeli threats against Lebanon have escalated, accompanied as usual by instigation against resistance and relying on clear, coordinated U.S. support. The U.S. support was evident in U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's warning message to Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and in another message from Christopher to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

MENA today cited a responsible source at the U.S. State Department as saying that the U.S. secretary of state has sent an urgent message to Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, informing him that Israel may carry out a large attack against south Lebanon.

Report on U.S. Message Denied

NC1802133794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has denied a MENA report citing a responsible source at the U.S. State Department saying that he received a message from Secretary of State Christopher informing him that Israel may carry out a large-scale offensive against the south. Dallul added that U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley expressed satisfaction with the progress of the Lebanese Army and informed him of the U.S. Congress' approval of the deal to grant Lebanon armored personnel and troop carriers. He added that the deal, which has been on hold, involves between 100 and 150 carriers.

Dallul: Army Mobilized, Ready To Play Role

NC1702141194 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has emphasized that the problem with Israel is a political not a security one as Israel claims.

He said: They ask us to halt the resistance so that the Israeli army may live on our land, which is foolishness. Our land is occupied and the resistance was not the cause of occupation but rather a result.

He indicated that the army can ensure security in the south and if Israel withdraws, the army can carry out security duties efficiently.

On preparations to face any aggression, he said: We want to keep the people steadfast. The resistance will not be touched and the army is mobilized and completely ready to play its role as it did in the Seven-Day War. These are the capabilities that we will use and that we are not willing to surrender. We have taken all precautions within our reach and will not give in. He added: We are not willing to be defeated peacefully at the negotiating table because we were not defeated militarily in the war with Israel. Israel should make a decision on a comprehensive, just peace and on the exchange of land for peace, because occupation and peace cannot be combined.

Tension in South Amid 'Enemy' Reinforcements

Agent Militia Said Forcing Enlistment

NC1702154894 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Acute tension and caution prevail in the south and western al-Biqa' amid continuing enemy reinforcements and threats.

Israeli radio said intermittent firing took place between the Resistance men and the occupation forces and agents. The militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] radio said a Katyusha rocket fell at the al-Bayyadah post.

The Agent militia continue to force residents of the Strip to enlist in their ranks. Reports indicate that the militia personnel raided Kafr Kila, al-Tayyibah, and al-Qantarah and arrested 80 young men aged from 18 to 35 and herded them to a training camp in al-Majidiyah.

The agent militia commander, Antoine Lahd, has been absent recently and his deputy Karamallah Sa'id represents him at various meetings and activities.

Elsewhere, two officers of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] were wounded this morning in a landmine explosion while on a field tour north of al-Naqurah. They were taken to the UNIFIL hospital in al-Naqurah. One of the officers was said to be seriously injured and the other slightly.

House Hit by Israeli Fire

NC1702185894 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Excerpts] There is caution and tension in the south. While Israel takes a grave view of the firing of Katyusha rockets at the Galilee, as Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says, Hizballah, through [Deputy Secretary General] Na'im Qasim, stresses that resistance against Israel will continue. President Ilyas al-Hirawi, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Mark Hambley, and Army Commander General Emil Lahhud today assessed developments in the south. [passage omitted]

Events in the south and the region were reviewed in a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Damascus at noon today. [passage omitted]

Israel renewed its machine-gun fire against Kafr Rumman this afternoon. Citizen Muhammad Najm's house was hit and caught fire. Civil defense brigades in al-Nabatiyah put out the fire. The Israeli forces kept the Zummarayya crossing closed for a second day but opened the al-Hamra' crossing. [passage omitted]

Israel Reportedly Sends Reinforcements

NC1802073694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Guarded calm prevails in the liberated areas in the south and western al-Biqa'. However, the massing of Israeli troops in the border strip is continuing. According to information from the occupied border strip, in the past 12 hours Israel brought in about 20 armored vehicles and about 100 troops to the areas of al-Khiyam and al-Ahmadiyah, overlooking the western al-Biqa'.

Further on Israeli Shelling

NC1802100694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Tension prevails in various areas in the south as a result of continued Israeli threats and attacks. The occupation forces this morning shelled Majdal Silm from their positions in Tallusah. Meanwhile, medium-caliber weapons fired on Wadi al-Hujayr and Wadi al-Saluqi.

Israeli gunboats have carried out patrols inside Lebanese territorial waters between Sidon and al-Naqurah.

At 0800 today, a border strip militia patrol strafed the areas of al-Hasbani, Zummarayya crossing, the Mimis crossroads, and the al-Dahr hills with various types of automatic weapons for 90 minutes. A number of mortar rounds were also fired.

The Israeli forces shelled the Birkat al-Jabbur area in western al-Biqa' from their positions in the Abu-Qamhah area. The border militia radio [Voice of the South] said that a resistance group was spotted trying to infiltrate into the occupied area through Birkat al-Jabbur. Artillery fired at the group with unknown results and a helicopter flew over the area shortly afterward.

The agent militia also raked the buffer area along the western al-Biqa' front using medium and light automatic weapons and rockets, raising apprehension and anticipation.

U.S. Envoy Stresses 'Call To Halt Violence'

NC1702145794 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi discussed the situation in the south and the U.S. positions with U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley in a meeting at noon today. The ambassador was accompanied by a delegation of senior European officers.

Hambley publicly incited against resistance and said: We had the opportunity today to meet President al-Hirawi along with a special military delegation of European officers whose task is military training. I think the United States strongly believes that it is very important for Lebanon to have a strong army able to control all Lebanese territory. He added: President al-Hirawi is very concerned about developing the Army's military capability. Our contacts fall within this context and General (Porman) is with us.

Commenting on the south, Hambley said: This issue is on our minds. It is important that we should not let these groups hamper the peace process by continuing attacks, especially those that inflame things in the south. We are now trying to concentrate actively on the peace talks in Washington and hope to work together to avert any complications.

On his contacts yesterday with Prime Minister al-Hariri on a request from Secretary Christopher, Hambley said: Undoubtedly, our governments had intense contacts last night. We will continue these contacts. I do not wish to elaborate on these talks but our governments are trying to follow up the situation and make new moves through the Washington talks.

Asked if the request to halt resistance in the south is now a United States' demand, rather than an Israeli one, he replied: This was a misconception of the U.S. message. I stress the call to halt violence and the need to pursue the talks, because they are the only solution.

The U.S. ambassador and the European officers delegation met Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul.

President al-Hirawi earlier received Army Commander General Emile Lahhud, who briefed him on reports coming into headquarters from the south. They also discussed issues concerning the military institution.

Al-Hariri, al-Asad Discuss Situation in South

NC1802075694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] The overall situation in Lebanon was the subject of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY reports that President al-Asad met with Prime Minister al-Hariri for three hours and discussed with him the current local and regional developments and the situation in the south in the wake of the recent Israeli attacks, and the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Prime Minister al-Hariri also met twice with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. He returned to Beirut around 2200 yesterday.

Al-Hariri sources described the results of his talks in Damascus as good, and said that his talks dealt with the situation in the south, the stages covered in the bilateral peace negotiations, and the Lebanese situation in general.

The results of the Damascus talks will be the subject of consultations today among President al-Hirawi, Prime Minister al-Hariri, and Speaker Nabih Birri.

Birri Terms Ending Resistance as 'Surrender'

NC1802073794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri affirmed last night that the resistance is Lebanon's peace card. He noted that Lebanon is facing an attempt to undermine it economically and cut it down to size geographically. He said that ending the resistance would be a surrender to Israel. Speaking at a Ramadan dinner banquet held by al-Mabarrat Charitable Society, Birri warned that ending the Arab boycott of Israel without the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 would be a stab in the back for Lebanon's steadfastness and sacrifices.

Hizballah's 'Crime' Against Family, State Viewed

NC1702131894

[Editorial Report] Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic in its issue of 14 February carries on pages 3-5 an approximately 3,000-word article by Chief Editor Hasan Sabra, entitled "A Compound Crime in Ba'labakk—the Assassination of a Family and a State", commenting on a recent incident in al-Biqa' where local clansmen took the law into their hands and put to death a youth of 16 who had killed three people—a mother and her two children—in the course of an armed burglary. After analyzing the factors leading to the current economic hardships in that area, the slowness of the judicial process, and the enfeebled sense of national identity, the writer discusses Hizballah's plans to replace or nullify the state in various Lebanese areas. He remarks that Ba'labakk's double crime "did not come from a vacuum."

Sabra points out that when the narcotic crops in al-Biqa', a former mainstay of that area's economy, particularly in northern al-Biqa', were eliminated in line with new "regional circumstances and U.S. conditions," no lawful alternative to making a living was offered, thus encouraging theft.

He then discusses some people's weak affiliation to the homeland and their inclination to accept tribal justice. He says this is encouraged by the condition of the Lebanese courts, which are plagued by delays and interventions by politicians. The result, he says, is that people despair of getting justice from the courts. He notes that "thousands of cases have piled up in the Lebanese courts, some never get to court, some remain in the investigators' hands, and some are buried under the debate among lawyers and judges."

He calls for improving judges' living conditions and urges politicians to keep their hands off the judiciary, declaring: "We place the chief responsibility for the judicial crisis in our country on the shoulders of the majority of politicians, their wishes, greed, circumvention of the law, their pressure on judges, and their alternate threats and bribes to them."

On the significance of the Ba'labakk incident, he says:

"While we denounce the rejection of society's laws, weak sense of national belonging, and recourse to tribal law, we also share the feeling of those who believe in one homeland that there is a party that does not want the state to exist and indeed believes that the state's very existence is at the expense of its own.

"Who does not know Hizballah's plans to abolish the state in Ba'labakk-al-Hirmil, Beirut's southern suburb, and every other place where it can forfeit the state's institutions, flout its laws, and reject society's norms, using pretexts to resort to armed force, sometimes trying to bribe and at others making threats? It always has ready rulings [fatwas] to twist the arm of religion, distort it, and use it to intimidate the public.

"The state is absent in Ba'labakk-al-Hirmil just as it is absent in the southern suburb and Jabal 'Amil.

"In Ba'labakk, Hizballah nullifies the courts, in the southern suburb it nullifies public services, and in the south it nullifies the state's sovereignty. In all these cases it tries to impose its laws at the public's, society's, and the homeland's expense.

"An opportunity offered itself in Ba'labakk to implement Hizballah's Islamic republic slogan, in practice not in theory. It was offered on a blood-soaked pillow. Hizballah did not let the opportunity slip. The party that prevents the building of a general hospital in the Southern Suburb and opposes new roads, electricity supplies, and telephone services to the people will have no scruples about exploiting the murder of a whole family.

"And now what?

"What happened in Ba'labakk is a compound crime in which a family was murdered and a state was assassinated. State officials and the public must respond to this assassination. They must go by the book and use the state's prestige. The crucial component of prestige is justice and the retrieval of outlaws... by the law."

Arrest Warrants Issued for Diplomat's Murderers

NC1702174194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Beirut's first investigating judge, Sa'id Mirzah, today issued arrest warrants for the suspects charged with assassinating Na'ib 'Umran al-Ma'ayitah, first secretary at the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut. They are Bassam 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Atiyah, Yusuf Muhammad Sha'ban, and Salim Qasim Mihyu.

The warrants were issued according to Articles 549 and 72—weapons—of the Penal Code, on charges of premeditated murder.

Iran Asks Companies To Employ 'Sympathizers'

PM1602144794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Walid Abi-Murshid: "Iran Demands Lebanese Companies Employ Its 'Sympathizers'"]

[Text] London—A well informed Lebanese source has revealed that a group of establishments and companies operating in Lebanon recently received specific requests from Tehran that a number of its political "sympathizers" be employed in their administrative or technical departments.

The Lebanese source said that Iran offered to provide a number of establishments having commercial dealings with it with official cover when necessary for employing the elements in their departments, for example, by providing official notification confirming they are representatives of known Iranian establishments.

The Lebanese source noted that what he terms Iranian trade infiltration in Lebanon comes in the wake of increasing reports about the possibility that Hizballah will dissolve its military wing in the event that the Israeli forces withdraw from southern Lebanon within the framework of a comprehensive peace process in the region, and the possibility of withdrawing "Revolutionary Guard" elements from al-Biqa'.

It is worth mentioning that a leading Lebanese Hizballah source announced in Beirut yesterday that the party has drawn up a plan to confront what the source termed "consequences of peace" with Israel if it is achieved. The source said that even if its military is dissolved, Hizballah will retain its social and security organs and will fight any attempt to "normalize" relations with Israel.

A Lebanese ministerial source stresses that the Israeli forces' withdrawal from southern Lebanon would not be the end of Hizballah's role on the Lebanese scene, but, rather, the beginning of a new political role whose foundation is the mobilization of popular opposition against attempts to normalize unofficial relations with Israel.

The source adds that Hizballah would lead the tendency calling for turning the Lebanese-Israeli peace—if established—into a cold peace along the lines of the Egyptian-Israeli peace.

French Approval Needed for Sale of Mirages

PM1702105494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Feb 94 p3

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—A ministerial source has stated that the cabinet's agreement in principle to sell the Lebanese Army's Mirage aircraft will not take effect even if the purchasing party makes an offer complying with the government's terms, because Lebanon needs to get the approval of the state or company which manufactured the aircraft before selling them.

The ministerial source told AL-HAYAH that arms contracts concluded between two states or between a state and the manufacturing company usually stipulate that the country which purchases or uses the aircraft has no right to dispose of them without prior approval.

He said that the Lebanese Government will seek France's approval as soon as it receives an official offer from the Pakistani Government to purchase the Mirage planes. Lebanon will thus have complied with the terms of the contract signed between the two countries. There is no commitment in the contract as far as Dassault, the manufacturing company, is concerned.

Discussing numbers, the source said that the Lebanese Army's Air Force had received 12 Mirage aircraft since 1968, all made in 1967, and that although they were placed in active service, they were operated for only a limited number of hours.

He confirmed that the Army command now has 10 aircraft still parked at al-Qulay'at military airfield in 'Akkar (in the north), and that the other two were damaged before 1975, one having crashed during exercises in the early seventies at Riyaq airbase in al-Biqa'—the pilot survived.

In conclusion, the source said that "although their manufacture dates back to 1967, the aircraft are as good as new and are in good condition because of their limited flying hours not exceeding 100. They need maintenance to become operational."

It is known that the Pakistani Air Force has some Mirage aircraft.

President al-Asad Receives Lebanon's al-Hariri

JN1702190294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1200 today. Discussions dealt with the situation in the region and the peace process.

Assembly Briefed on 'Financial Balance' Measures

JN1702204994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] This morning, the People's Assembly held session a under Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah. At the beginning of the session, a summary of deputies' written queries was read out, and then referred to competent authorities through the Prime Ministry. The assembly then listened to the government's responses to deputies' written queries to the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade on the government's measures concerning the dollar exchange rate. The ministry explained that the government has adopted a number of measures, including the creation of a neighboring market [al-suq al-mujawirah], referring many commercial and noncommercial transactions to this new market, and encouraging exports and permitting [exporters] to keep part of export revenue. The ministry also explained measures to combat smuggling and to effect a financial balance through increasing revenues and rationalizing expenditure, which would include a reconsideration of subsidies for some commodities and institutions. The ministry also explained the reasons behind the slight rise that occurred in the foreign currency exchange rates.

Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister economy and foreign trade, explained some points concerning a number of questions. The session was adjourned and will reconvene at 1200 Saturday, 26 February.

Commentary: Nothing Left for Palestinians To Negotiate

JN1802084694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary from the "Palestine" program]

[Text] Arab and non-Arab observers wonder what is left for the PLO negotiator to the Taba talks to accept or reject. The fact of the matter is that it is Israel that decides and dictates agreements between the two parties. If the Palestinian negotiator ever defies what is being dictated on him, the matter is referred to Yasir 'Arafat, Yitzhaq Rabin, or Shim'on Peres. 'Arafat will then announce his approval of the arrangements Israel wants.

Thus, political and media observers began to see, day in and day out, further concessions made by the PLO delegation. They have now reached the conclusion that Israel has taken everything. But, despite this, Israel is exercising further extortion just for the sake of it.

Israel stuck to its position over passages; settlements and the lands around them; main roads; control over the land, sea, and air border points; the right to enter the self-rule area to arrest wanted Palestinians; and all the other conditions of colonialism, hegemony, and tutelage. So what remains to be negotiated in Taba? This is the question being asked by political observers and world journalists. It is also the question which the Palestinian Arab masses are asking.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Replies to Uzbek Leader's Ramadan Message

LD1702191894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has sent to Tashkent a message of gratitude addressed to Islam Karimov, president of Uzbekistan, in response to the latter's message of congratulation on the occasion of the month of Ramadan.

The message says: I express gratitude for your message of congratulation addressed to me on the arrival of the blessed month of Ramadan. On my behalf I congratulate you on the month of Ramadan and all Muslim people of that republic. I hope that the Muslim people of the Republic of Uzbekistan pass these auspicious days in tranquility. I wish from God prosperity for you and the people of Uzbekistan.

Rabbani Sends Ramadan Message to King Fahd

LD1702195094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has sent a message of gratitude to Riyadh in response to a message of congratulation from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques and King of Saudi Arabia. Text is as follows: Esteemed brother Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, peace and the blessings of God on you: With great pleasure I received your excellency's message of congratulation on the arrival of the blessed month of Ramadan.

Thereby on behalf of myself, the Islamic State and the Muslim people of Afghanistan I express congratulations to you dear brother and to the state and Muslim people of Saudi Arabia. I am fully confident that the blessed month of Ramadan will be days of happiness for the Muslim fraternal people of Saudi Arabia and for all Muslim people of the world. Taking the opportunity once again I wish your excellency and the people of Saudi Arabia health, prosperity, and tranquility.

Over 100 Dostam Militia Reportedly Killed

LD1702165794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Dostam's militia fired heavy weapons at our persecuted people last night from Tapa-e Marranjan [east Kabul] and the Pacha Pol direction. Quoting a Defense Ministry source, the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that the infamous militia last night at [words indistinct] began a series of attacks. The aggressors met with defeat at the hands of the forces of the mojahedin and the Islamic army. The militia left behind 100 dead at Pacha Pol area alone and fled. Similarly [words indistinct] militia were killed at the Tapa-e Maranjan direction. The dead corpses of the militia are still lying in these areas.

Hekmatyar, Dostam Allegedly Prepare Iran Trip

94P50100A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Feb 94 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad, London—The two commanders of the Afghan rebels are preparing to travel to Tehran in an attempt to obtain more Iranian support for their confrontation with interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Afghan and Pakistani sources have stated that Golboddin Hekmatyar, interim prime minister and leader of the Hezb-e Eslami, has requested an invitation to visit Tehran. The Uzbek leader, 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, who has been prominent as a strong man in the tripartite alliance including himself, Hekmatyar, and the Shiite leader 'Ali Mazari, will also visit the Iranian capital.

A conference in Tehran including the Uzbek, Shiite, and Pashtun commanders may lead to the formation of a new allied government that will attempt to force the removal of Rabbani and his unseen administration.

Hekmatyar, who has rejected a fasting month (Ramadan) ceasefire, contacted the Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, by telephone yesterday demanding that Iran take on a greater role in ending the conflict in Afghanistan.

Dostam and Hekmatyar hope to mobilize Iranian, Uzbek, and Russian support to counter the increasing pressure from Pakistan, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the United Nations.

Rabbani has not yet been able to obtain support for his plan to host a conference of well-known personalities, tribal leaders and religious leaders to select a new government. In the last few days, he has faced mounting pressure, especially from Pakistan, to agree to resign as soon as a peace conference is convened.

Dostam and Hekmatyar counter the Rabbani plan with a demand to conduct public elections under the auspices of the United Nations within three months after the ceasefire. Their condition [for this] remains the resignation of Rabbani.

India

Two New Ministers Added to Narasimha Rao Cabinet

BK1702122494 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1105 GMT 17 Feb 94

["Special News Bulletin"]

[Text] Veteran Bihar leader Mr. Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav and Dr. C. (Silvera) from Mizoram have joined the Union Council of Ministers. Mr. Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav was sworn in as a cabinet minister by President Shankar Dayal Sharma at a brief ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this afternoon. The 74-year-old Mr. Yadav will look after chemicals and fertilizers portfolio. Mr. Yadav, a backward class leader, had contested the 1991 elections

from Arrah on the Janata Dal ticket but had supported the Narasimha Rao government in the crucial no-confidence vote in July last year.

Dr. C. (Silvera) was sworn in as the minister of state for health and family welfare. Dr. (Silvera) is Lok Sabha member from Mizoram and the first union minister from the state. Vice President Mr. K.R. Narayanan, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, a number of his cabinet colleagues, and Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla were present on the occasion. This is the third expansion of the Council of Ministers since Mr. Rao assumed office in 1991. The strength of the council now goes up to 59.

Ban on Kashmir Group Extended; 5 Killed in Clash

BK1802035694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] The government has decided to extend the ban on the militant outfit, JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front], for another two years. The step has been taken under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. The JKLF was declared an unlawful organization by a notification of the Home Ministry two years ago.

In the Kashmir Valley, four hard-core militants belonging to an outlawed outfit were killed in an encounter with the Army near Tangmarg in Baramula District yesterday. A spokesman of the Defense Ministry said in Srinagar that one Army jawan [soldier] was also killed in the encounter.

Pakistan Warned Not To Submit Resolution to UN Commission

BK1702154794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] India today warned Pakistan that the process of bilateral dialogue will suffer a serious setback if Islamabad moves its resolution on Kashmir at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the whole world knows that Pakistan's only intention is to get political gains out of it. He said India is committed to resolve all the outstanding issues,including Kashmir, through mutual consultations with Pakistan. The spokesman said New Delhi is in touch with the permanent members of the UN Security Council on the development.

Results Given for Rajya Sabha Elections in 4 States

BK1702163994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Excerpt] In the biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha, the Congress-I has bagged all the four seats from Karnataka, while the ruling Left Front has gotten all the five seats in West Bengal. Out of the eight seats in Bihar, the Congress-I has gotten two, the Janata Dal, 4; and the CPI [Communist Party of India] and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] one each. The lone seat in Sikkim has gone to the Sikkim Sangram Parishad. [passage omitted]

Article Views Capability of Pechora Missile

BK1602141694 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 12 Feb 94 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 11—The 'life-line' of air defence is Pechora missile and the No. 7 Base Repair Depot at Tuglaqabad keeps the missile system at optimal operational capability by carrying out regular maintenance, according to Air Commodore P.K. Ghosh, Air Officer Commanding, Tughlaqabad Air Force base.

Explaining the working of the base to a group of journalists who were taken round the depot here today, he said, "In the present geopolitical scenario missiles are of paramount importance".

The one-ton, six-metre long Pechora missile which is the most sophisticated is completely stripped to its individual parts along with the launcher and the missile guidance radar (MGR) as also the instruments in its control cabin.

About 750 personnel of the 1,200 at the base work on the different parts which are divided into as many as 300 sub-assemblies each having thousands of parts.

The guided missile can look onto the enemy aircraft and going at the speed of Mach-4 (four times the speed of sound) around 13200 metre per second destroys enemy aircraft within 11 to 17 kilometre.

The life of the missile is 49 second and if it does not hit the target within that time it goes straight up and destroys itself.

The launchers are so synchronised that the radar and the missile simultaneously point towards the direction of the enemy aircraft.

As the target (hostile aircraft) is tracked by the MGR, the missile is automatically pointed towards the target. The entire operations being controlled from the control cabin of MGR where one can spot the hostile aircraft as a 'blip' as soon as it comes within the range of the radar. After tracking the aircraft the missiles electronically home on to the target.

The missile's range is 25 kilometre but generally the hit is made at a distance of 11 to 17 kilometre.

Once the missile homes on to the target then a kind of electronic relationship is established between the missile and the target and the movement of the missile continues to be guided by that of the aircraft automatically by a command guidance system. So the question of the enemy aircraft manoeuvring and escaping does not arise, as the missile remains continuously latched on to it.

The decision to launch the missile is taken by the alert IAF [Indian Air Force] officers depending on the combat considerations and the 'launch' button is pressed when the aircraft is well within the kill zone.

At a time when the radio signals being received from the aircraft by the missile become very high crossing a predetermined threshold (showing the missile is close to the

target) the missile automatically explodes its warhead which consists of metal pieces.

The explosion which is caused about 300 metre away from the aircraft forms a kind of spherical cloudburst of metalic pieces which the aircraft cannot avoid and goes straight into it. Being hit by the shrapnels at supersonic speeds the aircraft is usually destroyed or severely damaged.

The kill probability of hostile aircraft is of the order of 100 per cent.

The MGR has been provided with necessary anti-jamming protection to effectively function even when jammed.

Two generators supply the power to the missile system so that if one fails the system can function without disruption.

The radar also has a television camera which can visually track the aircraft even at distance of 25 kilometre and supply visual data on a television screen inside the MGR so that if for some reason the radars don't give the signals automatically then manually trackers can track the aircraft with the visual input and fire the missile.

First and second line maintenance is carried out by the Squadron in the field and the third and fourth line repair (medium repair) as well as defect repairs beyond the squadrons capabilities are carried out here.

On induction equipment is stripped, examined by specialist tradesmen at the production wings under close supervision of specialist officers and quality assurance inspectors to access the quantum of deterioration and the quantum of work spares required to carry out the medium repair as per schedule of repair technology prepared by the manufacturers. The logistics support wing caters for the timely provisions of the spares/materials to undertake repairs by production shops.

The components of stripped down equipment pass through a series of medium repair operation, which include cleaning, washing, painting, cabin repairs, repair of electrical and electronic components, replacement of mandatory items and defective components, assembly of panel and checks against standard equipment (Stand Tuning), assembly of main equipment, functional test for serviceability, and endurance test for reliability of the equipment.

On completion of all the operations, all self-systems of the Pechora Missile System is connected together and comprehensive test of the system as a whole is carried out. On successful completion of this comprehensive test, Directorate of Air Staff Inspection carry out a thorough functional check of the complete Missile System as it would be deployed and used in a Squadron and it declares it fit to operational use.

As the missile is of Soviet origin, efforts are also being made to procure spares of Indian origin.

BJP Assails Clinton Remarks on Rights in Kashmir

BK1702154994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has criticized President Clinton's statement on human rights in Kashmir and said it violated diplomatic norms. In a statement, the party president, Mr. L.K. Advani, said Mr. Clinton's reference to Kashmir constitutes an unwarranted interference in India's internal affairs. He said the recent statements of U.S. Administration show that it seeks to dismember India. He urged the government to convey the nation's sentiments against such utterances which will embolden terrorists aided by Pakistan.

Editorial Dismisses U.S. Approach to Region

BK1802093194 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 8 Feb 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Still Not Even-handed"]

[Text] The Clinton administration's decision not to go ahead with its proposal to repeal the Pressler Amendment is a serious setback to Pakistan. The move was prompted by a shift in the American policy towards South Asia and as a gesture to Benazir Bhutto's fledgling government. But what did Washington expect in return? Did it have any reason to think, for instance, that by resuming economic and military assistance barred by Pressler, the US would succeed in persuading Pakistan either to desist from fuelling terrorism in Kashmir or to roll back its nuclear-weapons programme? It is, in the final analysis, the administration's failure to give a reassuring reply to this crucial question at a hearing of the Senate Foreign Affairs Sub-committee on South Asia that has led to the retention of the Pressler Amendment. Senator after Senator assailed the move to delete the Amendment from the Foreign Assistance Act as an instance of the Clinton administration's inept policy towards South Asia. None was taken in by State Department officials' apparently innocent plea that the idea was simply to remove a provision which was country-specific—that is in relation to assistance to Pakistan. The proffered official explanation was that deletion of such a provision would make for greater flexibility in the conduct of foreign policy. This did not wash because the Senators maintained that removal of Pressler would be a contradiction of the government's professed non-proliferation goal in South Asia.

While New Delhi is naturally relieved to find that the Congressional vigilance has helped scuttle a mischievous anti-Indian twist to US policy, there is no room for complacency. The heavily-funded Pakistani lobbies in Washington must be expected to continue their efforts with redoubled vigour to play mischief. It is still a long way to go and complex procedures to be completed before a final foreign assistance act emerges: These lobbies are unlikely to be disheartened by the outcome of the deliberations in the Senate Sub- committee because key aides in the White House have been found to be vulnerable to their machinations. The more important reason for India to be ever

watchful is the new evidence that the so-called even-handed approach of the US in South Asia remains in fact heavily tilted in favour of Pakistan.

In the past the US gave overriding importance to effective conduct of an anti-Soviet strategy in which Pakistan was a key element. It is no secret that Washington in return turned a Nelson's eye to Islamabad's nuclear weapons programme. But even in the absence of cold war compulsions, the US has not ceased going out of its way to placate Pakistan on one specious plea or the other, especially on the Kashmir issue. Whether the policy is marked by doublethink or confusion, the resulting threat to India's interests is obvious.

Article on Defense, Economic Ties With Russia

BK1702111194 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 14 Feb 94 p 24

[By M.K. Dhar]

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 13—Russia has assured India that the emergence of ultra-nationalist forces in its newly elected Parliament will not affect the India factor in its foreign policy.

It has also sought an early visit by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to Moscow to review implementation of the agreements signed during President Boris Yeltsin's New Delhi visit last year and to discuss more areas of cooperation.

As a result of the exchange of communications between President Yeltsin and Mr Rao and other exchanges through diplomatic channels, it is likely that the Prime Minister will visit Moscow in June for extensive talks on international issues and bilateral matters. The Indian factor in Russia's Asian policy plays an important role and Moscow is now getting more conscious of the importance of strengthening stability and security in South Asia and the Asia- Pacific region as a whole in view of the growing fundamentalist and ethnic pressures on the Central Asian republics and the need for friendly and peaceful neighbours.

Moscow has assured New Delhi that the bottlenecks to trade and supply of defence equipment and spares have now been removed and economic interaction between the two countries will increase. The backlog of supplies of equipment and spares for the Indian Air Force will be cleared in the next few weeks, as more Russian ships will dock in Indian ports. As regards the Navy and the Army, supplies will be speeded up after the visits of Russian Naval Chief Admiral Felix Nikolaevich here next week and of Indian Army Chief Gen. B.C. Joshi to Moscow later this month.

India has been informed that President Yeltsin has constituted a special department to expedite arms exports. Earlier, Indian defence teams were expected to negotiate directly with the enterprises spread all over the Commonwealth of Independent States, which was a frustrating experience. After receiving frantic Indian requests, the Russian Defence Ministry shipped to India small consignments of spares from the inventory of its own armed forces until firm arrangements for supply were made. But considering that nearly 60 per cent of the arsenal of the Indian defence forces is of Soviet origin, the supplies were extremely inadequate.

However, there is little progress on the cryogenic rocket engine front since the agreement between ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] and Glavcosmos was annulled by Moscow under US pressure. Up to the time of cancellation of the pact, some technology transfer had taken place, but it had not reached the stage of handing over design, drawings and actual components of the engine, as well as fuel. The Russians are now willing to honour the financial component of the deal by supplying more finished engines than envisaged in the contract, but the Indian side is still undecided.

However, other agreements regarding exchange of scientists and technicians under the umbrella of the science and technology cooperation are being implemented as per schedule. Recently, an agreement was signed between the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) and Myasischev Design Bureau (MDB) for joint design and production of a nine to 14 seater light transport aircraft (LTA). The project is worth Rs [rupees] 80 crore (with MDB investing Rs 40 crore) and the first prototype is expected to be ready by 1995-96.

Indo-Russian trade, too, is showing signs of revival after a massive disruption following disintegration of the former Soviet Union, though actually a large component of Indian exports are accounted for by debt repayments. Indian imports from Russia in the first half of last year rose by 25 per cent, mainly on account of deliveries of newsprint and non-ferrous metals. Since a proper administrative machinery for recoveries and settlement of debt did not exist in Russia, several lobbies came into operation. The Finance Ministry, which is supposed to affect recoveries, is one such lobby, with the Ministries of Foreign Economic Affairs and Industry-cum-Trade the others. Of the Rs 1,300 crore available to Russia last year as instalment of debt repayment, Moscow has been able to order imports worth Rs 700 crore only because of disagreement among Ministers on the list of commodities to be imported. The Russian Prime Minister, Mr Viktor Chernomyrdin is supposed to draw up an indicative list of items to be imported from India.

Editorial: Pakistan 'Lever' for U.S. Pressure on Delhi

BK1802094794 Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Feb 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Playing With Pressler"]

[Text] That the Clinton administration has decided to retain the nuclear sanctions against Pakistan as envisaged under the Pressler amendment, at least for the time being, would, without doubt, prompt questions about the U.S. policy. Indications that the Clinton administration was increasingly in favour of repealing the amendment on

grounds that it no longer advances U.S. non- proliferation goals put a strain on Indo-U.S. relations. The more so in view of the puzzling shifts in U.S. postures that seem to alternately confirm and deny a definite pro-Pakistani tilt. Such an Indian feeling was reinforced by the vigorous diplomatic exercise launched by Pakistan to convince Washington of the need to exclude Islamabad from the Pressler law on grounds that it was one-sided and that it damages Pakistan's conventional military capability, or in other words, gives India a strategic edge.

With many in the administration buying such an argument, Delhi had compelling reasons to see the move to have the Pressler amendment repealed as yet another anti-India stratagem of the Clinton administration. The latest decision to retain the amendment must surely have come as a severe jolt to Ms. Benazir Bhutto's government, though she must have received other placatory assurances from the U.S.. And while Delhi has reason to be pleased with the decision, it would be imprudent on its part to take the decision as final.

The move, in any case, is not inspired by a new-found enlightenment in the Clinton administration about the merits of following a more even-handed approach towards the subcontinent. Rather, as admitted by the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Mr. Brian Atwood, the move is purely tactical, with a view not to rub Congressmen the wrong way. Besides, in the interim before the current legislation on foreign aid presented to the U.S. Congress becomes law, the Clinton administration is likely to continue its search for a two-way deal on the nuclear issue whereby in return for some nuclear concessions from Pakistan, the Congress can be goaded to lift an amendment the administration wants repealed. Above all, our relief over the retention of the amendment should be tempered with the fact that Pakistan already has a nuclear weapons programme in place. Nevertheless, the decision to retain the amendment signals that nuclear non-proliferation remains a major aim of U.S. policy, however, it is pursued. U.S. relations with Pakistan are complicated by what Washington wants to impose on India—by making use of Pakistan as the lever of American pressure on this country.

Ex- AEC Chief Downplays Pakistan Nuclear Capability

BK1802100394 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 11 Feb 94 p 9

[By Kamlendra Kanwar]

[Text] Bombay—Former Atomic Energy Commission [AEC] chairman Homi N Sethna has described a "absolute hogwash" recent reports that Pakistan has acquired nuclear weapon capability and that the Indian sub-continent was "a screwdriver's turn" away from a nuclear holocaust twice in the last seven years.

In an interview with INDIAN EXPRESS Sethna who was AEC chief from 1972 to 1983 during which time the country exploded an experimental nuclear device at Pokhran in Rajasthan said contrary to Pakistan's claims, it had not been able to achieve more than 60 per cent uranium enrichment with the centrefuge technology that it had acquired.

The enrichment required for gas to be converted into bombgrade heavy metal was at least 90 per cent, he pointed out.

Besides, it had never seriously taken the plutonium path whereas India had started reprocessing plutonium way back in 1967-68.

Sethna said the Americans were given to exaggeration and it suited Pakistan to be seen as a burgeoning nuclear power in the region for domestic political reasons.

While contending that India was way ahead of Pakistan in the nuclear field he denied that it ever had aggressive intentions. Reacting to the reported claim by an American journalist William E. Burrows in his book Critical Mass that Indira Gandhi had made elaborate plans to bomb Pakistan's Kahuta enrichment plant before she was assassinated in 1984 he said this was a blatant lie.

Being in a vantage position in the AEC and the Government there was no way such a plan could have escaped his attention, he added.

Asked how he felt now about the 1974 Pokhran blast as he looked back, Sethna said he was confused as to what purpose was served in exploding a device and then not following it up. "We should have gone flat out, acquired the status of a nuclear power and bargained for a place in the Security Council," he said with authority.

Reacting to a question on how secure Bombay's nuclear installations were from enemy air attacks, Sethna said the Cyrus and Dhruva reactors as also the plutonium reprocessing facilities were well protected. However, the radio metallurgy and radio chemistry labs in the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre were vulnerable.

Queried about the possibility of a nuclear arms race in Asia in the wake of North Korea's acquisition of nuclear capability he said American attempts to bring the North Koreans to heal were in order.

However, reports about US plans to supply Scud missiles to South Korea were disturbing.

The Scuds were proved ineffective during the Gulf War and any effort to arm South Korea with them would fuel suspicions that the US is pandering to its strong arms suppliers lobby.

Iran

Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Arrives

JN1702190994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, 17 Feb (INA)—Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, first under secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, arrived in Tehran today.

Al-Faysal's visit to Tehran seeks to resume the high-level bilateral negotiations which were halted in November. The week-long talks in Tehran will deal with Iraqi prisoners of war whom Iran is still holding in violation of Islamic law and international norms. The talks will also deal with expanding bilateral relations.

Editorial: Islamic Iran Has No Identity Crisis

NC1802115194 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL (Special Weekly Edition) in English 10 Feb 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Steady at Fifteen"]

[Text] Remember November 4, 1979? Iranian revolutionaries seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran and held some 100 spies hostage. Tons of documents, sophisticated spying equipment, the overall setup of the so-called embassy and statements by the 'diplomats' confirmed to the people of Iran and the free world that the U.S. mission was grossly violating all norms of international law.

That was 14 years ago. The world's largest economic and military power then made an undeclared pledge to undermine the newly-born Islamic Republic of Iran to avenge the political humiliation.

And so a non-stop process began to destabilize the unique Islamic Revolution and its leadership. Aware of the fury and conspiracy in Washington and other allied capitals, the late Imam Khomeyni told the nation and other oppressed masses that "America can't do a damn." Time and again the father of the Islamic Revolution in Iran urged the deprived and downtrodden not to overestimate America's military, diplomatic and economic might—now on the decline.

Now here we are. Islamic Iran is celebrating the 15th anniversary of the upheaval that brought down the region's most powerful monarchy. Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, America's staunchest ally was forced out of the country. His crime? Among all the evidence of injustice during the shah's rule and the lawlessness of his family members, the king's unquestionable subservience to Washington can be singled out as the stalk that broke the camel's back.

Save the direct bombing of Iranian cities by U.S. fighter planes, (the U.S. did shoot down one of our passenger planes in 1988 killing all 300 civilians on board) the Carter, Reagan, Bush and Clinton White House did everything to first bring the Islamic state to its knees and then wipe out its name from the world's geographical map. For a decade and a half the U.S., closely followed by Britain, has spared no opportunity to sustain its Iran-bashing strategy. Engineering Saddam Husayn's full-fledged military invasion of Iran to sponsoring resolutions against "Tehran's human rights violations" at world forums are among the long-list of known plots of the great satan.

We absolutely do not want to convey that the Washington-London offensives failed at every turn. Our people know that these two hostile powers have on and off succeeded in making life difficult for the U.S. [as published] Depressing oil prices, difficulties in procuring technology for peaceful purposes, encouraging today's kings, sheikhs, presidents-for-life and military dictators to silence their peoples' calls for Islamic justice... are plots that temporarily disturb our lofty mission.

On hindsight we realize that from time immemorial everything has had a price. Today the stakes are much higher. Ours is basically a Muslim society that has unfathomable belief in justice of the kind practiced by our Imam 'Ali (A.S.) [as published]. Islamic Iran has, in the recent past, displayed some unprecedented levels of zeal, and resistance to arrogance and aggression. May be the U.S.-engineered war, sanctions, isolation and condemnation after the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution were a blessing in disguise. The majority of our people have learnt to endure and this is something what the loud-mouthed American and British leaders can't take away by a stroke of their hand.

We do not need to run away from the truth. Yes, our country has some problems. Which country doesn't? From the islands of Mindanao to the desert dwellings in Morocco nations are grappling with social, economic and political problems. And mind you, very few of these (governments) are on the U.S. black list. Iran is a thorn in the eyes of American leaders who fear the rise of Islam and its ramifications on Washington's illegitimate interests around the globe.

Contrary to what our western adversaries like to publicize, Islamic Iran has no identity crisis. As regarding our proclamations of peaceful coexistence, the international community once clearly, though reluctantly, endorsed this position (the U.N. admitted that Iraq started the war against Iran). Then again look at the Islamic Republic's normal and growing relations with all its neighbors. Fifteen years may be like 15 seconds in the history of a nation. Yet in this period we managed to come a long way and have little to fear. We have already accepted that the 21st century will be the century of Islam. With this in vision, we are minding our own business and expect the U.S. to do likewise.

Nazarbayev's Reaction to Clinton's Comments Cited

NC1802085994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] The Kazakh president has said that during his recent meeting with the U.S. President, Clinton asked him to distance himself from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Nursultan Nazarbayev told correspondents in New York yesterday: Unfortunately the U.S. Administration's attitude toward the Iranian Government is negative. But Kazakhstan oes not believe in isolating Iran, which enjoys special importance in northern and central Asian affairs. The Kazakh president pointed out that Almaty's relations with Tehran are extremely good and constructive and that despite all the bad propaganda by enemies, the two countries are expanding their relations.

Nazarbayev rejected allegations of a threat from Islamic fundamentalism in the Central Asian republics and

stressed: We are all Muslims and respect Islamic beliefs. After having lived through the antireligious years in the former Soviet Union, the people in the Central Asian republics are extremely interested in returning to their religious beliefs. Nevertheless, he added, in Kazakhstan religion and politics are kept separate.

The Kazakh president described the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, as a good example of successful regional cooperation for the world.

Referring to the agreements between Washington and Almaty, he said that the two countries have concluded agreements in the political, economic, scientific, technological, and defense fields as well as in the joint use of Kazakhstan's space center, and that the United States has promised $300 million in aid to Kazakhstan.

UN Visit to Iraq, Nuclear Potential Viewed

LD1702230494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, Hans Myers, said on Wednesday [16 February] that the Agency is not able to reject Iraq's likely potential for making nuclear weapons with any certainty. The spokesman said: Though the IAEA will exercise long term monitoring of the Iraqi nuclear installations, Iraq is a big country and it might have some center which have not been discovered so far.

In this connection a UN team is expected to begin a nine day visit to Iraq today in order to arrange a program for controlling Iraq's military industries and stop the production of long-range missiles. During its stay in Iraq, the UN team is also expected to select a suitable place for installing the surveillance cameras and other such equipment.

Despite the UN concern many political experts think it is quite difficult and inconceivable that Iraq can become nuclear now, or in the future, specially when its last recognized consignment of nuclear material was moved to Russia last February 12. This is beside the economic weakness and vulnerability that has afflicted Iraq following the Persian Gulf war. According to certain experts this very issue may, to a large extent, adversely affect Iraq's nuclear program.

At any rate a major part of the pressures being brought by the UN may be the result of the activities and influence of the Israeli lobby in the White House. In fact in the opinion of Zionists any Iraqi threats to the security of the Qods occupier regime are not to be ignored. On this basis many political observers consider Washington's pressures on the UN for controlling Iraq's military industries and also for continuing the existing economic sanctions against Baghdad to be related to this very issue.

These sanctions remain in place under the conditions when Iraq's ailing economy is going through difficult phases with a threat of famine and hunger, as well as grave health conditions of the vast majority of the Iraqis is looming large. This issue may focus the Iraqi people's attention on the Baghdad regime. Naturally this is not the objective desired by the White House ringleaders.

Editorial on Aliyev Request for Turkish Training Help

NC1702204894 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Feb 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Are New Horizons Being Opened Up?"]

[Text] The Republic of Azerbaijan has requested Turkey to arrange for the military training of the Azeri army officers.

According to reports received from news agencies, Geydar Aliyev made that request at the end of his 4-day visit to Turkey.

Political circles in the region are not inclined to grant much weight to that statement by Geydar Aliyev who has a special reputation for being a very complex personality. Since he assumed power on June 30, Aliyev has been playing in various ways with the regional powers - with Moscow and Tehran and now with Ankara. Aliyev's courtship of Ankara started quite recently, for bilateral ties between Baku and Ankara had not been very warm after the downfall of Abulfaz Elchibey who depended greatly on the Turkish support.

Some of the well-informed political observers in the region evaluate Geydar Aliyev's recent statement only as a means of provoking the other regional countries specially Russia.

Surprisingly it seems that Russia has been pursing the affairs of the new independent states quite closely in spite of the chaotic social and economic situation in that country.

It is true of course that the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis still goes on, but it seems that the recent victories gained by the Azeris in battle fronts could serve to deflate somewhat the Armenian military pride and make them settle for more realistic peace talks.

The Armenians military victories of the previous months had encouraged them to adopt a very demanding position. At the same time the economic situation in Yerevan is reportedly much more chaotic then it is in Baku.

In the opinion of political observers, after the recent trip to Moscow by Morteza Banki, the director of the Central Asia Department of the Iranian Foreign Ministry and his negotiations with some of the Russian authorities, and the consequent expression of willingness on the part of Moscow to seek a political settlement for the crisis in the Caucasus in collaboration with Iran presents new hopeful prospects.

It has been clearly demonstrated in the course of the futile military encounters of the past few years that the Caucasian issue could not be resolved with the aid of powers that are at a geographical distance from the nucleus of the conflict. The crisis could only be resolved by the regional powers with the collaboration of the two warring countries.

There remains, however, one source of worry. In the process of action Russia had already blocked the efforts of the Minsk group to reach a political settlement. Is Russia going to perform that role again in connection with the new peace initiative that is being undertaken by Iran, Turkey and Russia?

Velayati, Pakistani Envoy Discuss Kashmir Issue

BK1702044594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Professor N.D. Khan, Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto's special envoy, met Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in Tehran yesterday. He stressed the need for continuing international pressure on India to stop the atrocities on Kashmiris. He said that Pakistan, through bilateral dialogue, had tried to persuade India to adopt an appropriate posture on the Kashmir issue. Pakistan, however, felt that it is India's strategy to take time to suppress the legitimate demands of the Kashmiri people. He said that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has decided to present a resolution at the current session of the Human Right Commission meeting in Geneva. He expressed the hope that the world community will raise its voice against the Indian atrocities in Kashmir. The Iranian foreign minister assured the envoy of continued support to Pakistan's efforts to stop the human rights violations being committed by India and improve the human rights situation in Kashmir.

Pakistan Supported on Kashmir Stand

BK1702163794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has said Iran fully supports Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue. Speaking to the Pakistani prime minister's special emissary, Professor N.D. Khan, in Tehran today, the Iranian president said Pakistan can trust Iran for its support on the Kashmir issue not only at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva but in other organizations as well. He said Iran is fully aware of the plight of the Muslims in occupied Kashmir.

Earlier, the special emissary handed over to the Iranian president a letter from Ms. Benazir Bhutto, appealing for Iran's support for Pakistan's resolution to be moved at the Human Rights Commission to express concern over the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. Prof. N.D. Khan also apprised the Iranian leader of the Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir and told him that India refuses to take steps to halt these atrocities. He also thanked Iran for its traditional and solid support on the Kashmir stand.

Georgian Foreign Minister Affairs Pays Visit

Delivers Message to President

LD1602154694 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, (IRNA)—The visiting Georgian minister of foreign affairs, Aleksandre Chikvaidze, here Wednesday [16 February] delivered a written message from President Eduard Shevardnadze to his Iranian counterpart Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In a meeting with President Rafsanjani, the minister also underlined the significance of friendship and neighbourly relations between Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Chikvaizde said that in the light of the existing political undestanding between the two countries, Tbilisi is ready to expand bilateral relations in trade and economic areas.

He briefed Rafsanjani on the latest developments in Georgia and voiced his country's interest to buy Iranian gas.

President Rafsanjani referred to the Geographic situation of Georgia in the Caucasus and voiced satisfaction with restoration of peace and stability in the republic.

He also welcomed consolidation of Tehran-Tbilisi relations and said that transfer of Iranian gas would be possible after expert studies in the area.

Officials Discuss Oil, Trade

LD1602202094 Tehran IRNA in English 1849 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA—Visiting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia Aleksandr Chikvaidze, and of industries, Vladimirak [name and title as received], here Wednesday [16 February] discussed Iran-Georgia cooperation in economy and trade with Iran's Economy and Finance Minister Morteza Mohammad-Khani.

The Georgian officials also voiced the interest of their country in cooperating with Iran in the area of gas, transportation and trade exchanges.

The two Georgian officials voiced the readiness of their country to act as transit route for transfer of Iranian natural gas to Europe through a pipeline.

They also also discussed cooperation in oil exploitation, and transit agreements and production of compost.

Mohammad-Khani, in response, said the Islamic republic is ready to act as transit route for Georgian commodities to the Persian Gulf as well as facilitate Georgia's access to Asian and African countries.

The two sides also agreed on an early formation of a joint Iran-Georgia economic commission.

Meets With Majles Official

LD1702114894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] In the meeting in Tehran between Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze and Majles Deputy Speaker Rowhani, the two sides exchanged views on issues of interest to both countries and stressed the need for sincere cooperation among the nations of the region.

Rowhani referred to the issue of cooperation between the Caspian Sea littoral states and said: The countries of this region are able to resolve their own issues and do not need the presence of foreigners. He also stressed the importance of diplomatic solutions for ending the present disputes and declared the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to mediate in Georgia's internal disputes.

The Georgian foreign minister, in turn, referred to the existing situation in his country and the parties involoved in the dispute, as well as to Georgia's decision to improve its relations with the countries of the region. He said: Expansion of ties with a large and strong country such as Iran is a cause for pride. He then alluded to the historial and cultural bonds between the two countries, and expressed the willingess of Georgia to further broaden its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and benefit from Iran's parliamentary experiences.

Joint Communique Issued

NC1802105294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] A joint communique was issued last night at the end of the talks between the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the Republic of Georgia in Tehran. In the communique the two countries emphasize the need for regional countries to actively participate in finding a peaceful solution to the existing crises in the Caucasus and in the establishment of permanent peace and stability in the region.

As for the shipment of gas from the Islamic Republic of Iran to Georgia, it was agreed that a long-term agreement is needed in this regard and that delegations of experts from the two countries will meet in the near future to prepare the preliminary steps. The two countries are also to use their full potential to expand cooperation in transportation, especially road and air transportation.

Regarding agriculture, the two sides stressed the need to expand relations; and it was decided that our agriculture minister will visit Georgia soon. On the basis of an agreement between the two countries, a joint economic commission is to be formed early this year.

In the joint communique, the Georgian Government expresses gratitude for Tehran's assistance and calls for the continuation of such assistance. This request has been accepted by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

UN Secretary Expresses Thanks for Tajik Mediation

LD1602195394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Romero Piriz Ballon, special representative of the UN secretary general in Tajikistan affairs, met Foreign Minister Velayati today and handed him a written message from the UN secretary general for Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Ballon said: The UN secretary general has asked me to covey his appreciation and thanks to your government for the Islamic Republic of Iran's constructive efforts and the positive and worthy role in resolving the Tajikistan crisis.

In response, Velayati said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always followed Tajikistan issues with concern, and we have always believed that a resolution of the Tajik crisis is only possible through negotiation and peaceful means. The Islamic Republic of Iran will support any move which guarantees honorable peace and tranquillity and the rights of all interested parties.

Officials, Radio Comment on Rushdie Fatwa Anniversary

'No Relation' to Bosnian Crisis

LD1602194594 Tehran IRNA in English 1904 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Belgrade, Feb. 16, IRNA—The decree pronounced five years ago by the father of the Islamic revolution, the late Imam Khomeyni, against the apostate author of *The Satanic Verses*, Salman Rushdie, bears no relation whatsoever to the Bosnian crisis, the Iranian Embassy in Belgrade has pointed out to Serbian state news agency TANJUG.

TANJUG, in a recent article, tried to distort facts by saying the Serbs were being threatened with bombs and missiles by what it called the "progressive world public which reacted so strongly in defence of Rushdie", only because they do not fit into the vision contained in the "Islamic declaration" of Bosnian Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic.

Bosnian Serbs face NATO air strikes if they do not withdraw their artillery from around Sarajevo which they have been pounding for 22 months now.

Bosnian President Izetbegovic was imprisoned following an infamous trial of Bosnian Muslims by the former Yugoslav communist regime, because of his work, the "Islamic declaration".

In a letter to TANJUG's editor-in-chief, the Iranian Embassy said the author of the text had in a very surprising manner distinctly related the decree, later confirmed and supported by the organization of the Islamic countries, to the situation in Bosnia.

"The author's accusation of 'Iranian fundamentalism' is improper and does not help him in the description of the current situation in Bosnia and political action taken in this respect," the letter said.

The embassy looked forward to correction of the article and expected TANJUG to publish rational and fact-based comments, the letter concluded.

Rushdie Verdict To Stand

LD1702092094 Tehran IRNA in English 0744 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—An Iranian parliament deputy has recommended the West not to base its relations with Iran on a single person but rather view the situation realistically.

Interviewed by the English daily TEHRAN TIMES Wednesday [16 February] Jalal Sa'Adatian commented on the recent uproar the Western world made on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the death verdict on apostate Rushdie issued by the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran the late Imam Khomeyni and advised Western leaders, particularly British Premier John Major, to study Islam.

He said that the verdict, issued by imam only to observe one of the basic Islamic principles, could neither be withdrawn nor altered.

Referring to Major's remarks on Feb. 14 on relations with Iran, Sa'Adatian noted that Iran had time and again declared it had no intention of sending commandos to kill Rushdie.

The deputy further urged the west to note that Tehran-Britain ties should be based on bilateral ties not on a single person.

Execution Said 'Least Punishment'

LD1602233194

[Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 1600 GMT on 16 February broadcasts a 30-minute weekly news review program entitled "Seven Days, The World." This week's program includes a six-minute section on the 14 February anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeyni's fatwa calling for Salman Rushdie's death for writing the book *The Satanic Verses*.

After reviewing the reasons and results of the fatwa, the announcer states: "A coordinated endeavor by the Western media focuses on the revival of a current, a current which has been practically buried since the issuance of the fatwa. Now, from that defeated ploy, only a plaything is left which every now and then comes out of its hiding-place, for a few moments, to create propaganda fodder for the Western propaganda horns.

"In any case the conspiracy of the insulting book, *The Satanic Verses*, was an insult against the beliefs and sanctities of more than one billion Muslims which can never be explained within the limits of freedom of thought and freedom of the pen. The least punishment for a mercenary who carried out that plot, is the irrevocable decree for his execution."

Deputy Minister Addresses UN Disarmament Institute

LD1602112094 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA—A morning daily here Wednesday [16 February] quoted a senior Iranian officials as saying that it is contention of the Persian Gulf countries that a peace process as distinguished from a process of force, intimidation, suppression, submission and surrender has never been embarked upon in the region.

The English daily TEHRAN TIMES quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif who addressed the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in Geneva Tuesday.

Referring to "a few" countries succumbing to the will of the big powers, Zarif said such actions instead of leading to peace and stability will only entrench the same threat perceptions which will lead to "further insecurity and instability."

The "past erroneous approaches and perceptions" deter the common attempts "towards a better world order", the daily quoted Zarif as saying.

He proposed the creation of a forum by Persian Gulf countries to discuss "security issues, threat perceptions and other concerns", ther paper added.

Zarif deliberated on the fundamental issues related to regional security and to the long-term peace prospects, the daily noted.

The paper concluded by saying that he mainly discussed the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, specially nuclear, and advocated the creation of a zone free of such weapons.

New Foreign Ministry Appointment Viewed

NC1702120194 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Feb 94 p 1

[From the TEHRAN TIMES city desk]

[Text] Tehran—Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati formally issued orders yesterday for the appointment of Mohammad Hashemi as his first deputy.

It is expected that former head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting will takeover the second most important and sensitive post today.

Hashemi was replaced on Sunday by former Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance Dr. 'Ali Larijani.

The post is qa'em-maqam, as it is called in Persian, since the first deputy traditionally has no specific or defined duties.

'Ali Mohammad Besharati held the post before being appointed interior minister by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani last August.

Besharati, a member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the Majles, during its First Term, was appointed first deputy at the Foreign Ministry in 1983. During his term of office, he was assigned Persian Gulf affairs by Dr. Velayati.

It is popularly believed that Besharati was more than successful in his mission despite transparent Western schemes to keep a rift between Iran and the Arab countries on the other side of the Persian Gulf.

It will be interesting to see what particular assignment is given to Hashemi. The former student of the University of

California, Berkeley, could be a big help to Dr. Velayati because of his awareness of the West and America in particular.

Rebel Radio Views Political Developments

NC1702122894 Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Following differences between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his opponents during the past few days, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's brother Mohammad Hashemi who was in charge of the radio and television organization, was removed from his position. Some time ago, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's opponents in the clerical Majles had started to strongly criticize Mohammad Hashemi and were accusing him of not paying attention to Islamic values in radio and television programs. Thus, they had placed Hashemi-Rafsanjani under severe pressures and were questioning some of his policies.

The removal of Mohammad Hashemi from his position as the director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [VVIRI] once again revealed the fact that in the existing differences among the leadership factions, a large part of the Majles deputies oppose Hashemi-Rafsanjani—a Majles that Hashemi-Rafsanjani hoped would coordinate with his government, his policies, and his programs. However, it is now clear that a considerable number of the Majles deputies not only are not in coordination with Hashemi-Rafsanjani but are also creating problems for him and are thwarting his efforts.

Even though the Majles is only an institution and organ of the regime, in these differences there is no institution or or?on which Hashemi-Rafsanjani can rely and gain their support. The Majles, the Council of Guardians, the bazaaris, and RESALAT clique, and the supporters of the religious seminaries are expressing their opposition to Hashemi-Rafsanjani in one way or another. The army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps too are under Khamene'i's orders. The Hezbollah, which manifests itself mostly in the form of the Basij, is under Khamene'i's orders.

Meanwhile, if Hashemi-Rafsanjani had some popular support in the past and was able to distract public opinion both at home and abroad with his promises, recently with the defeat of his economic policy and as a result of the baselessness of his promises he has lost this support too. Thus, we can say that Hashemi-Rafsanjani has failed in his duties; and this failure can be seen both in the economic and social fields and in the confrontation with his opponents.

Political experts list two major reasons for Hashemi-Rafsanjani's weakening position. The first is the composition of the Majles and the other is the recent considerable increase in the people's dissatisfaction. The composition of the Majles is not what Hashemi-Rafsanjani wanted. The withdrawal of the extremist faction during the elections of the fourth session of the Majles not only did not strengthen Hashemi-Rafsanjani but worked to the benefit of the conservatives inside the leadership.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani had assumed that if the extremists inside the leadership were set aside and especially did not participate in the Majles, the rest of the opponents could be tamed by giving them some benefits and that he could then do as he pleased. However, obviously Hashemi-Rafsanjani was wrong in his calculations. Meanwhile, the intensification of the people's dissatisfaction during the past couple of years and the explosive nature of these feelings in several cities in the country made the clerical regime shudder with fear, and during the people's uprising and demonstrations, the clergymen heard the bases of their rule cracking and disintegrating.

Thus, Khamene'i used the pretext of the West's cultural onslaught and once again called on the Hezbollah ummah to return to the scene, to revive the Basij Organization, and to return the regime's suppressive forces to the political scene. Thus, the political atmosphere that was created by Khamene'i was not to the benefit of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his situation, and once again it became obvious that the regime's main problem is the continuation of the Islamic Republic and how to preserve it. Long-lasting differences inside the regime increased and new differences emerged.

It seems that the long-lasting differences between Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani which emerged after Khomeyni's death have become more acute. In this conflict, a large number of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's opponents consider the main problems that the Islamic Republic faces to stem from Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policies and actions. In the middle of all this, a large part of the power centers has been placed under Khamene'i's authority and the balance of power has shifted to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's detriment.

These differences have continued and the dismissal of Mohammad Hashemi from his position as VVIRI director is yet another sign of the process that is weakening Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The question is: What will Hashemi-Rafsanjani do to free himself from this situation? Clearly, if he places himself under Khamene'i's cloak, he will join the ranks of other clergymen who work under Khamene'i's shadow without having any special authority or programs; and if he does not do so, then he will have no support of any size to confront his opponents, some of whom are standing behind Khamene'i and are trying to thwart his efforts in one way or another.

Under the current situation, Hashemi-Rafsanjani thinks that it is better to come to terms with his opponents and rivals to a certain extent and the clearest example of this is his acceptance of the removal of Mohammad Hashemi from his position as VVIRI director, which is considered to be a positive answer to the opponents of Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

One can say that under the current situation, neither the alliance of Khamene'i and his supporters nor Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his clique are able to throw the other out of the scene. But the situation will not stay the same and it is

improbable that either of the two sides will agree with the continuation of this situation.

It can now be said that the intensification of this process and the deepening of the differences and rivalry among the various groups of the regime will, first and foremost, further paralyze the regime and will also render the regime helpless vis-a-vis the crisis which it is now facing. Undoubtedly this too will pave the way for the intensification of the regime's struggle against the ruling regime.

Khamene'i To Lead Tehran Friday Prayers

NC1802061494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, will lead the spectacular and resolute Friday prayers today on the seventh day of the auspicious month of Ramadan and on the first Friday of this auspicious month.

The Tehran Friday Prayers staff has called on all fasting brothers and sisters to joint the enemy-breaking Friday prayers and to further add to its resoluteness and splendor and manifest the unity and unanimity of the Islamic ummah.

Nepal

King Calls For Parliament To Reconvene 24 Feb

BK1702122894 Hong Kong AFP in English 1123 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 17 (AFP)—King Birendra has called parliament to reconvene February 24, officials said Thursday, thwarting Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's plan to dissolve the legislature and call mid-term polls.

An internal feud in the ruling Nepali Congress (NC) has already delayed the winter session of parliament for more than a week.

The main opposition in the parliament, the Nepal Communist Party- United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML), had appealed to the king to urgently call a parliamentary session to discuss the current political situation.

The NCP-UML argued that a call for mid-term polls 26 months ahead of the expiry of the current parliament's five-year term should not be made on Koirala's recommendation alone, and should be debated in parliament.

The row in the NC started after the defeat of party president and bitter Koirala rival Krishna Prasad Bhattarai in a parliamentary by-election February 7.

Koirala had bitterly flayed Bhattarai for criticising him and the government in a by-election campaign speech. Bhattarai supporters and more than 50 NC MPs for their part said the prime minister's comments, as well as a deliberately poor campaign effort by some NC officials, cost the party the election.

Analysts said Koirala wanted a snap election to force the party to unify behind him. His party has a fairly comfortable majority of 113 seats in the 205-member parliament.

Since Bhattarai's defeat, students and front-line NC youth supporters have taken to the streets to denounce Koirala, and the party's executive body, the Central Working Committee, is deciding whether to take action against Koirala for his alleged misconduct during the recent by-elections.

Most committee members are loyal to Bhattarai and he is expected to repeat his call for Koirala to resign when the committee completes deliberations, probably on Friday.

Party sources said that would lead to a crisis within the NC and a possible bid to oust him from the party, but that Koirala was seeking support from students and MPs ahead of a showdown.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Bhutto Announces Energy Policy

BK1602134394 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1643 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] My dear countrymen! Today, I want to talk about an issue that has no relation to day-to-day politics. Democracy does not just mean a war to secure power. The country has witnessed enough of the tussle for power. The people are fed up with this tussle. That is why the people elected a popular government in the most free and fair elections in the history of the nation. The people voted in favor of political stability, and they want to see changes in their lives. They want prosperity for their children. God willing, your government will provide this prosperity.

There were people who forgot the poor masses in the tussle for power. This could not continue for long. The country was faced with severe difficulties when we assumed office. We took the steps to speedily overcome these difficulties. Political independence is incomplete if the economic difficulties remain unsolved. We have to work for the people's economic stability so as to maintain our political independence. We have to make our people satisfied and prosperous.

It is not possible to bring about economic prosperity merely by the government wishing to do so. It cannot be realized by merely providing a legal infrastructure. It cannot be possible merely through deregulation. A strong infrastructure needs to be built to achieve this objective, and the most important component of this infrastructure is energy. The Water and Power Development Authority [WAPDA] is practicing power-load shedding due to the deficit in power generation during the last few years. Fifteen or 16 years ago, people did not even know what load-shedding was. Now, it has become a routine affair. There are power outages for several hours daily in cities and villages. In rural areas, sometimes there is no power for several days. Factories have been closed in urban areas due to the lack of power,

thereby leading to lower industrial production. In rural areas, the irrigation tube wells cannot be operated due to load-shedding, thereby affecting agricultural output.

On the one hand, there was no increase in power production during the past few years, while on the other, demand kept increasing by 12 percent annually. The country is currently facing a deficit of nearly 2,000 megawatts of power. Urgent steps are needed to meet the demand for power and to stop the load-shedding. If we fail to do so, then it will shatter all our dreams of economic development and we will be lost in a blind alley.

Incorrect policies of the past are the main reasons behind this serious crisis. Special attention was paid to power production during the first tenure of the popular government. Work was going on with full speed on huge hydroelectric and thermal power projects to meet the increasing demand. There were the big projects such as the Mangla and Tarbela power plants and the Guddu thermal power station. This doubled electric production within the short period of five years. Attention from these developmental activities was diverted when Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's elected democratic government was toppled. Work on oil and gas exploration came to a standstill. No new hydroelectric power projects were started. The result was that the country faced an acute power shortage after 1982 and the whole country kept sinking in the darkness.

When we assumed office the last time in 1988, we wholeheartedly tried to deal with this situation. We designated billions of rupees in the budget for the power sector and started a number of new projects. We concluded agreements with France and the PRC to set up nuclear power plants. We tried to mobilize resources for power and oil and gas production with the cooperation of the private sector, and in December 1989 we concluded an initial agreement on the Hab project. The popular government was relieved of office by a conspiracy in August 1990. The agreement with France on the nuclear power plant also ended as soon as the new government took over and no progress could be made on the Hub project. Projects were started based on the wrong priorities. The delay of only three years in executing these projects has caused a loss of 35 billion rupees to the national exchequer.

Wrong priorities resulted in great deterioration of the energy situation. Immediately after coming to power, I decided to set up a task force on energy to deal with the situation. In addition, I have taken some more important rapid steps without waiting for the recommendations of the task force. They include the decision to launch the Ghazi-Barotha hydroelectric power project costing more than 70 billion rupees and the Hab project in the private sector at a cost of more than 50 billion rupees. The swift government action in making decisions can be understood from the fact that the heads of delegations from 45 international banks, which provide financial assistance to the Hab project, said that the progress achieved within two weeks is greater than that of the past three years.

Now, the task force on energy has submitted its recommendations for a new energy policy and the federal cabinet has approved them. This is the first time in the history of Pakistan that the government has formulated an integrated policy. Under this policy, there will be balance in the development of the oil, gas, coal, and hydroelectric sectors. Over the next five years, more than 700 billion rupees will be needed for power generation and oil and gas exploration. The government can invest 330 billion rupees of this, but we will have to find the remainder through private sector investment. In order to create interest in power generation and oil and gas exploration within the private sector, we are announcing some major incentives.

The government has decided to purchase electricity from private investors at the rate of 6.5 cents per kilowatt. This price is the most attractive in the entire region, which will provide a great incentive to the private sector in power generation. Investors who complete power plants within three years will receive a special premium. This concession is to encourage private investors to complete power plants as soon as possible. Power projects have been totally exempted from surcharges on education and flood relief. The import license fee has also been completely waived. Until now, the private sector was hesitant to invest in power generation projects as they took a considerable amount of time to enter into various agreements with the government. Your government has standardized all these conditions. Now private investors will have no difficulty in signing agreements with the government. In a like manner, these incentives will certainly draw the attention of foreign investors.

The situation now is that without taking revolutionary and drastic steps, it is impossible to overcome power outages. This crisis cannot be overcome simply by starting up new power projects. In addition to this, we should also strictly control waste, theft, and the nonproductive of electricity. We will launch a major program of demand regulation [preceding two words in English]. Under this program, the waste of electricity will be reduced. The pilferers will be identified through computers and legislation will be enacted under which they will be liable for imprisonment up to five years and heavy penalties.

A five-year plan has been prepared for this purpose. Under this plan, consumers will be provided with a new kind of meter. The consumers will be encouraged to use fluorescent lights rather than incandescent bulbs. It will not only greatly reduce electricity bills for consumers, but also immensely reduce the load on the WAPDA systems. In order to reduce the demand for electricity in the evenings, a new scheme has been prepared. Under this scheme, the electricity tariff will be calculated according to the amount of time a consumer uses electricity. A process of providing off-peak [preceding word in English] power to tube wells will begin. All these measures will reduce government expenditure on electricity generation by 11.5 billion rupees annually. At the same time, the difference in the demand and supply of electricity will be reduced to a point where load-shedding will be nominal, God willing, in three years.

Likewise, in order to slow the excessive consumption of oil in the transportation sector, some steps of fundamental

importance also have been proposed. Currently, oil imports are 45 billion rupees annually and the bill increases by 10 percent every year. More than half of this fuel is used in transportation. During the past few years, emphasis was placed on importing new and old motor vehicles instead of trains, large buses, and mass transit facilities which caused an unrestrained increase in the consumption of oil, besides creating serious traffic and pollution problems. We have, therefore, decided to develop such means of transportation, especially in major cities, which will reduce the level of pollution and traffic congestion on streets and also slow the undue consumption of oil. About 90,000 new engineers, technicians, and skilled workers will be required to translate all these programs into action, which will in turn create new avenues of employment. Some long-term policies have also been prepared for the development of the energy sector, which include construction of hydroelectric and coal-operated power plants, local manufacture of generators and transmission equipment, and accessories.

Dear brothers and sisters, the people's government has come into power by virtue of your votes and blessings. We have to fulfill your dreams and aspirations. When there is no light in a poor man's house, when factories are closed due to the lack of electricity and gas, the movement of the glittering yellow taxis on the six-lane highways cannot be described as the sign of development. The days of amusing the nation with games and pageantries are over. Now is the time for hard work and wise decisions. We must not waste this opportunity, otherwise, in the words of the poet Iqbal, may God forbid, our story will fail to be recorded in the annals of history. Let us make whole-hearted and sincere efforts for the success of the new energy policy, so that our dreams of development and progress within five to seven years are fulfilled with Pakistan entering the 21st century as a strong country and our hard-working people sharing equally the fruits of development, God willing. Long Live Pakistan.

Bhutto Speaks at Parliament on Kashmir, NW Frontier

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[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has expressed the confidence that the people of Kashmir will get their inalienable right of self-determination under the leadership of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP]. She was responding to the speech made by the leader of the opposition, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in the National Assembly this afternoon during the debate on the current political situation in the country with a particular reference to the situation prevailing in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province]. The leader of the opposition in his speech had criticized the prime minister on her interview with the BBC. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said she stood by her interview as Pakistan did not interfere in the internal affairs of India nor do we intend to interfere in future. Kashmir she emphasized is not an integral part of India. It is a disputed territory recognized by the UN and even by the former Indian prime minister, late Jawaharlal Nehru. The prime minister declared that Pakistan under the leadership of PPP has put India on the defensive and on the run. The Indian leadership is so desperate that it has indulged in attacking the person of the prime minister of Pakistan. It is a tragedy that when the Indian president and their leadership have launched a slanderous campaign against her setting aside all diplomatic norms, the opposition joined hands with the Indian Government against the prime minister of Pakistan. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said she is not deterred by such attacks and tactics as she has never committed any laxity in discharging duties while serving the motherland. The PPP government, she said, is steering the country out of the international isolation and enhanced Pakistan's prestige in the comity of nations. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said India is now embarrassed and worried due to Pakistan's effective strategy on Kashmir while the situation was quite different during Mr. Nawaz Sharif's tenure.

Referring to the allegations leveled by the leader of the opposition that the PPP has abducted the MPA's [members of provincial assembly] of NWFP assembly, she said the leader of the opposition is painting a wrong picture in this regard. She challenged the opposition to present a solid proof in favor of their claim about the abduction of MPA's like we had provided evidence of the kidnapping of the PPP MPA's [by Sharif's party] at the time of Senate election during the previous regime. She said nobody in the immediate families of the MPA's of NWFP assembly has claimed that their relatives have been abducted by the government. This is an ample proof that the claim of the opposition is false and baseless.

Participating in the debate, the leader of the opposition, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, said the government should have provided a leadership for strengthening political culture in the country. But he alleged the government is creating political crisis. He said the government should have taken initiative both in and out of the house in curbing the horse trading. Mr. Nawaz Sharif said the opposition has the right to move a no-confidence motion against the government, but horse trading and keeping MPA's hostage is contrary to the Constitution.

Earlier, the law and justice minister, Syed Iqbal Haider, moved a motion for debate on the current political situation in the country, with particular reference to situation in NWFP. Initiating the debate, Syed Iqbal Haider said the government has voluntarily agreed to hold discussion on the NWFP situation because it wants to discuss everything in the house. However, the minister criticitized the requisitioning of the session by the opposition. He said it has been done to sabotage the government endeavor to mobilize the world opinion on Kashmir.

Official on Bhutto Letter to Clinton; Leaves for Germany

BK1702035594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has sent a letter to the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton. The letter relates to the efforts being made by Pakistan to prevent

human rights violations in the occupied Kashmir by presenting a resolution at the UN Human Rights Commission meeting being held in Geneva. This was stated by Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan in Washington yesterday evening. He said that he has personally delivered the letter to senior State Department officials. Shaharyar Khan said that he also held talks on matters of mutual interest to Pakistan and the United States during his meetings with U.S. officials.

Answering a question, the foreign secretary said that it has been unanimously decided in Islamabad to present a resolution on human rights violations in Kashmir during the current session of the commission. He said that the situation this time is different from the time when Pakistan, on the suggestion of some friends and Islamic countries, had agreed to defer a similar resolution. They wanted to allow an opportunity for talks so as to peacefully resolve the dispute. He said that the situation in the Indian-occupied Kashmir remains unchanged and there has been no respite in Indian oppressive activities. The foreign secretary expressed dissatisfaction over the outcome of the recent Pakistan-India talks. He said that contrary to what Pakistan expected, Indian atrocities in Kashmir recently increased, which clearly indicates how sincere India is about holding talks with Pakistan.

In reply to another question, Shaharyar Khan said that it has always been Pakistan's conviction that the Kashmir issue should be resolved in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The foreign secretary has now gone to Bonn on the next leg of his trip to secure support for the Pakistani stand on Kashmir.

Iranian Envoy, Ali Discuss Afghanistan, Kashmir

LD1702200694 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 17, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Pakistan Mohammad Mehdi Akhund Zadeh called on Pakistan's Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali here today. The two sides discussed issues of mutual interest and exchanged views on the recent developments in Afghanistan as well as ways to help settle the problems of this country.

Pakistan foreign minister also briefed the Iranian ambassador on the situation in Kashmir.